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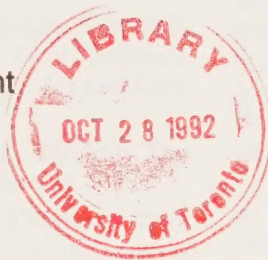
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Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

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Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 22 October 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 22 octobre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 22 October 1992

The House met at 1001.

Prayers.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

LABOUR STATUTE LAW
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT
LES LOI CONCERNANT LE TRAVAIL

Mr Owens moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 82, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act and the Workers' Compensation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les normes d'emploi et la Loi sur les accidents du travail

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member has 10 minutes to make his presentation.

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): I may not utilize the entire 10 minutes, as this is a very simple issue that addresses some acute problems that workers who are parents and workers who are injured have been facing since time immemorial. The themes I want to address today are that the provision of good maternity leave benefits is good for business, that fairness and equality are good for business and that justice for injured workers is also good for business.

Section 1 of my bill addresses the issue of the amendment to the Employment Standards Act. What this bill will do is provide for the accrual of credit for the purposes of vacation time and sick time while parents are off on their maternity or parental leave or workers are on workers' compensation. Again, the issue of extending benefits to these people on maternity leave and/or workers' compensation is an issue of fairness and equality. The first part of my bill will deal with persons on maternity leave.

As a society we have an obligation to allow workers to fully assume the dual responsibilities as workers and as parents. Children are our future, and we need to provide as much support and assistance as possible to allow their parents to care for them in their early years.

When one looks at the amount of time that would actually be accumulated during a maternity or parental leave, we're not talking about a great deal of time in terms of numbers, but those parents who have taken the time from their jobs during the initial stages need to have the feeling of security that they're going to be able to come back to the workplace again and enjoy the fruits of their labours in terms of their vacation. In many collective agreements we're talking about fractions of days. In many non-unionized workplaces we again are talking about fractions of days in terms of the accumulations.

We hear a lot of discussion about family values, and in some versions of family values that are discussed is a version with two parents. In many cases, this is not the case in 1992. Many parents do not have a choice when it comes to

working outside the home. This is not a case of parents wanting it all. It's clearly a case of survival. We should be adapting our laws and our legislation to suit the changing family in society. Again, we need to support the family in any way we can.

Our government, through the Minister of Labour, last year took steps to introduce amendments to the Employment Standards Act which will allow maternity leave benefits to accrue seniority. This bill is designed to expand on that premise by allowing parents to accrue their vacation and sick leave benefits while they're away. It's fair, it's equal and it sends a clear message to parents, and especially to new parents, that it's not acceptable to have parents penalized for having children. In fact, it will show that they're a valuable asset to our society and that they should be treasured, not punished.

While this amendment is certainly significant, it is by no means radical. Currently in Ontario, while we have a reasonable level of benefits, which again we have improved through amendments to the Employment Standards Act, it's still not as comprehensive as some plans in other countries. Countries such as Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Austria and Denmark mandate that working women be paid at least 90% of their wages for 14 weeks or more. Again by example, in France employees continue to be entitled to work-related social benefits. Providing maternity leave benefits again is good business. Better productivity and higher morale are the rewards for the business that will allow for substantial family leave plans. In fact, allowing working parents flexibility on maternity benefits is more than just good business; it's an investment in our future.

The second part of my bill deals with workers' compensation. Currently, injured workers are now penalized twice: first, by the fact that they are injured in the workplace; secondly, by losing the right to accrue benefits while they're off.

In 1991, \$2.3 billion in benefits was paid to injured workers. From January 1, 1992, to the end of July 1992, 221,000 claims had been filed for compensation. There are several issues around these numbers. Unfortunately, this bill can't deal with the substantive issues with respect to worker health and safety and workplace safety practices. But my point is that when workers have been injured at work they clearly should not be penalized by the employer in terms of his or her vacation plan or his or her sick leave plan.

What I've done with respect to WCB is put in a two-year period in order that employers are not looking at outside limits for the return of workers to the workplace. This mirrors the average period of time that many collective agreements currently have now with respect to return-to-work clauses. Again, this is an issue of fairness that has been a long-standing issue in my experience as a workplace health and safety officer, as a union president at

CUPE Local 2001, Toronto General Hospital, and it's an issue that I lobbied the Minister of Labour on during the time we were passing the employment standards amendments.

In saying that, I would also like to indicate at this point that the Minister of Labour and the ministry do support these amendments and will certainly be assisting me as we move through the process.

Again, in conclusion, the issue with respect to maternity leave: It's good business for this province and it's good for the workers. It's not only good for just unionized workplaces; it's good for non-unionized workplaces. The issue of fairness and equality is something that we as legislators should all be concerned about, and ultimately and finally, in terms of our injured workers, we should not be looking at penalizing these people for a second time. They've been hurt—in some cases, quite seriously. We need to do whatever we can not only to get them back to the workplace but to ensure that when they do return to the workplace they are returned as whole workers in all respects.

At the end of the debate today I'm going to ask that this bill be referred to the standing committee on resources development. I certainly look forward to support from all sides of the House.

1010

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I'd like to speak on this bill that has been brought forward in private members' hour, Bill 82, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act and the Workers' Compensation Act. I noted in passing that it is the hope of the member for Scarborough Centre that this bill be referred to the standing committee on resources development afterwards. I can only say that as the Labour critic for the official opposition who has been dealing with Bill 40, which is currently in the standing committee on resources development, the member will be aware that there are a great many people outside this chamber, throughout this province, representing many groups and associations, who feel very shut out from the process that the government has used in dealing with Bill 40, changes to the Labour Relations Act. They feel insulted that they were not given an opportunity to have their points, their thoughts, their opinions and their concerns heard in dealing with a piece of legislation they fundamentally feel will affect the future growth of this province.

So the member may want to reflect on his last request, because there are many people who have a very sour taste in their mouths, a bitter taste in their mouths when dealing with the standing committee on resources development and labour legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: I would ask you to speak to the bill, please.

Mr Offer: Having said that with respect to the request made by the member for Scarborough Centre, I will now turn to my concerns with respect to Bill 82. I am concerned. I had some specific concerns with the bill, but I must say that after listening to the member my concerns are only heightened, because the member did not speak to his own piece of legislation. The member spoke about fair-

ness; the member spoke about an atmosphere as if there were no benefits currently under the Employment Standards Act.

I think it's important for us to recognize at the outset that this is totally false, that in fact Bill 82, in its own explanatory notes, states that the Employment Standards Act will be amended "to ensure that a person who takes a pregnancy or parental leave is entitled to the same amount of vacation and sick leave." That's what this bill is about. It is not about maternity or parental leave, which is currently in the legislation. It is not about the benefits to people in this province, currently the law of the land. Bill 82 does not speak to that, because there is no need to speak to that. The reason is because it is already embraced in legislation from which people have received the benefits. What Bill 82 speaks to is that a person who takes parental or pregnancy leave is entitled to vacation and sick leave as if they had not taken the leave. That's what Bill 82 is about, and I will deal with my concerns with respect to that and then move over, if time permits, to my concerns which will be largely mirrored in terms of this being extended to the workers' compensation system.

Let us be clear that the comments made by the mover of the bill were not in any way referable to the bill. The member spoke about family values, a case of survival, a penalization for having children. Again, that's as if there are not any benefits in law now. That's as if there is no maternity or parental leave, and that is just not the case.

For the member to insinuate that this bill is really to establish these types of benefits, well, there isn't anyone who has ever taken these benefits who would believe that, because he or she has already taken parental and maternity leave. They have and do receive benefits, and I and my party have always been supportive of that and will continue to be supportive of that. But this piece of legislation doesn't speak to that at all. It says that if people are on maternity or parental leave, then while they are on that leave, while they are receiving those benefits, so too shall they receive vacation and sick leave benefits, and that's what Bill 82 is all about.

In that regard, I think we have to ask ourselves a very difficult and tough question, and the question is, has there been any discussion with representatives of business groups and community organizations dealing with the costs that this will have, dealing with what it means to have an accrual of sick leave benefits and vacation benefits to the business people in the province? Has there been any discussion with a variety of social service agencies as to what impact this may have? Has there been any discussion as to where the need arises for this type of legislation? I hearken back to concerns I have heard on other pieces of legislation: Bill 40, dealing with changes to the Labour Relations Act; Bill 80, dealing with nothing less than a disaffiliation of provincial unions from their international counterparts. We won't deal with that, because I know that is not up for discussion at this point in time.

The issue that is always brought forward on this and these matters is that the government, which that member represents, has never sat down with the people who are directly affected to listen to their concerns; to deal with the

issue of why; to move in a consensual, consultative manner towards resolving an issue.

I have heard and continue to hear on a variety of issues that the process the government uses is always to divide, to polarize groups, to polarize interests, and then its process is to build the distance between those groups that have concerns, until a time is reached when those groups say and do things, the wounds of which take years to heal.

1020

I am most critical of a government—it is that government—that utilizes that approach and that process time in and time out on a variety of issues which affect the future of this province, which affect the investment climate of this province, which affect the ability to create jobs in this province and to maintain a security for existing jobs.

I believe that this is another example of a member of the government moving on a piece of legislation which was not correctly referred by the mover of the bill in this chamber, without any consultation, without any idea as to what the costs of this may be, and to do so notwithstanding the very grave concerns that people have.

That is not to say that people will necessarily be against the bill. It is to say that we are dealing in an era where it is absolutely responsible, mandatory, for any government to look at the issue, to deal with the issue, to understand the issue, to understand its impact and, yes, to understand its cost. You do that not by squirrelling away in some ministry office but by reaching out to the people who will be affected to listen to their thoughts, concerns and opinions and then dealing with this bill.

This legislation flies in the face of true consultation. This is not about benefits to people on maternity or parental leave. Those are already allowed. This bill is about extending the benefits to include vacation and sick leave.

The member doesn't just leave it at the Employment Standards Act but moves further into the Workers' Compensation Act. I will read again from the legislation, the explanatory note. "The bill also ensures that the employee does not suffer a loss of vacation pay because of the leave. A corresponding amendment is made to the Workers' Compensation Act for workers who are unable to work because of an injury."

Again, the member would have you believe that the workers are not in receipt of any benefits. We all know that's not true. Workers do receive benefits under the workers' compensation system. What this amendment is saying is that while they are off on injury, while they're going through some rehabilitation, while they are receiving their benefits, we are also going to extend sick leave and vacation.

Again, the question is, what discussion has there been? Has this been done through the Workers' Compensation Board? There are many concerns over the running of the board. There are many concerns being voiced that the directors of the workers' compensation system, looking at other areas such as stress and funding, are in fact not even consulting widely enough on those issues. And here the member is bringing forward an extension to vacation and sick leave for workers who are injured, without

any knowledge as to what that means to the funders of the system.

The funders of the system are employers. We know that the workers' compensation system is now running a debt of in excess of \$10 billion. They are concerned as to how they are going to be able to deal with that debt. It would seem to me most responsible that issues of this kind be first dealt with very seriously in the area of how this will affect the unfunded liability of the workers' compensation system, because you may in fact be the architect of its destruction.

I say that not in any critical sense, but rather we no longer can afford to layer further debt on to a system which cannot find the means to pay its existing debts. I am not saying that should necessarily be a block or a barrier or a hurdle to looking at further benefits, but I am saying that it is only responsible, when looking at extending benefits, to do so fully cognizant of what the cost of this will be. It is irresponsible for any government to move on any benefit without knowing these answers. The people of this province demand no less. That's how they run their own households; that's how they live their lives. All they are saying is, "What we want this government to do is operate the way we operate our own households." Nothing magical about it; it's just based on responsibility.

I note that my time is running out, but I would say, firstly, that this bill is not about maternity and parental leave; that is already in the legislation. We have always supported that; we have extended that. This bill is about those who are on maternity and parental leave to also receive vacation and sick leave credits. Before you do that, you should be consulting with the social groups, the social agencies, the workers and the employers of this province. Then, at the end of that consultation, you bring forward some work, but not before.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I welcome this opportunity to provide a few comments on private member's Bill 82, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act and the Workers' Compensation Act.

According to the member for Scarborough Centre, the purpose of this bill is to amend the Employment Standards Act to ensure that a person who takes a pregnancy or parental leave is entitled to the same amount of vacation and sick leave as if he or she had not taken the leave. The bill is also aimed at ensuring that an employee does not suffer a loss of vacation pay because of the leave as well. A corresponding amendment is made to the Workers' Compensation Act for workers unable to work because of injury.

In theory, this is a good move to encourage new parents to nurture their children without being penalized in the workplace. However, I'm hard pressed to support this bill at this particular time, due to the current difficult economic times facing the people of Ontario. Our economy is still being battered by high taxation, high unemployment and low productivity and our social structure is stretched to the limit by soaring costs for health, education and welfare.

This is not the right time. There really is no right time to hit Ontario's beleaguered taxpayers with a new expense. Economic opportunity, social justice and health care cannot be obtained by continuing to tax and toss money at our province. The NDP government has got to get its spending priorities in order to disburse the taxpayers' money more wisely, more efficiently and more effectively.

Of particular concern to me is the amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act. This will place an additional burden on the Workers' Compensation Board, which has an escalating unfunded liability of \$10.3 billion. This debt represents about \$45,000 for each firm presently registered with the WCB. Unless the WCB debt is brought under control, it will negatively impact the ability of Ontario businesses to compete and will impair future investment and employment in this province.

The current recession has led to an 11% decrease in employer assessment in 1990-91. The WCB derives 75% of its overall revenues from manufacturing, construction and natural resource industries, which have all been especially hard hit by the current recession. These three categories are not expected to regain 1989 employment levels until 1995, and even that recovery could be in doubt if the NDP government proceeds with its changes to the Ontario labour laws.

I suggest that the WCB system, which was created prior to 1920, is outdated and needs a complete overhaul rather than more tinkering. More than a financial burden, this is a system in crisis. The WCB funding strategy is flawed because it assumes that the solution to its financial crisis is simply raising enough money to pay for everything. It does not address the broader issue of whether there is a need for structural reform of the system. We maintain there is a need for a structural reform of the system.

1030

As I said earlier, the theory and principle of this bill, to encourage new parents to nurture their children without being penalized in the workplace and to allow parents to continue to earn service benefits while on leave, is a noble undertaking. But I still have serious concerns that the current economic climate in Ontario is not able to support an additional financial burden that would accompany the passage of this type of legislation at this time.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity to say a few words on this private member's bill this morning.

The member is hoping to have the bill sent to the standing committee on resources development. He, as well as most other people in this Legislature, knows that the committee system around here is a farce. While I recognize the chairman of that committee tries to do the best with what he has to work with within the committee, it's a problem.

They talk about the consultation process; it's not working with this government. So to have this bill go to committee—I would be surprised if that happens. There have been many other private members' bills here on Thursday mornings that get second reading and then are killed. I presume the same thing will happen to this bill. If this bill ever does get to the resources development committee, I

would look forward to seeing what happens there, because I don't agree with the proposed bill this morning.

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I am very pleased to support the second reading of Bill 82, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act and the Workers' Compensation Act, and to support my colleague the member for Scarborough Centre. I believe this bill is part of the structure that we as a society must set in place to achieve the kind of society we in this House, and certainly we in this New Democratic government, wish to build.

It's been a long-held belief that the family is the basic unit of the community, the foundation that provides the signposts, the security and the stability that will ultimately make that community strong and viable. I'd like to add that I refer to all variations of the family unit. I'm aware that when we say "family," we may be perceiving it to be the old 1950s perception of the family, the one we got from American television, from Father Knows Best and Ozzie and Harriet: the two-parent family with children, a dog and a budgie. Whether or not that stereotype ever really existed is, I think, a matter of debate. We must, however, be realistically flexible and say that families are units of people who we hope are caring and nurturing, where individuals can find safety and security.

As the member for Scarborough Centre has so ably pointed out, that unit, that foundation which makes a strong community, is good for business, is good for investment, is good for the structures and institutions of our society. In short, it's good for all of us, and if we fail to provide whatever support we can, we do so to our own detriment, because the reality is that the financial demands on families, particularly young families, are significant.

Now, I know that many in this House are long past those difficult years when children are young and finances are thin—all we need do is look at the elderly visage here in Mr Mills—but that shouldn't prevent us from being aware, concerned and ready to act to ensure that families have the safety nets they need to provide the most healthy environment possible.

I can relate to that on a very personal level. My husband and I decided to begin a family after we'd been married for about four years. We'd worked very hard to establish a home in those four years and we felt we were ready for the responsibility, the demands and the joys of a child.

Despite those four years of effort and planning, the first months after the birth of our daughter were very difficult. At a time when we were dealing with the newness of parenthood, a remarkable change in our household, new responsibilities, we suffered and worried constantly about our financial stability. I had very limited maternity benefits. I might say that despite the fact that I was a working professional—I was a teacher—many of the women with whom I worked experienced the same kind of lack of financial support. I would be less than honest if I didn't tell you that I truly did feel penalized for committing the sin of having a child, and that should not be.

Fortunately, my husband and I have a very strong, mutually supportive relationship. We were a little more mature, perhaps, than some. I was 27; he was 30. He gets

older every year; I don't. But at a time when there were tremendous stresses and when our daughter needed us to be very strong and to provide her with a positive environment, we had to deal with those stresses.

This bill is designed to expand on the premise that by allowing parents to accrue their vacation and sick leave benefits while they're away, they will be able to achieve real stability. I think that's an important message. I think it's very important for us in this House to acknowledge the fact that it is not responsible of us to penalize young families, that it is not responsible of us not to say that we as a society are going to make every effort to make every accommodation so that children are cared for in a financially secure environment whenever we can do that, because childhood is the first building block to that strong and viable and contributing human being we need if Ontario is to move ahead.

I'd like to thank the member for allowing me to speak on this bill. I would say to the members of this House that my constituents asked me to come to Queen's Park in Toronto to do this kind of job, to provide this kind of leadership, the kind of leadership we see in Bill 82, the kind of leadership that's been provided by the member for Scarborough Centre. I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to do that. My future, my child's future, our future is dependent on a strong Ontario.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I'm pleased to have the opportunity to make a few comments regarding private member's Bill 82, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act and the Workers' Compensation Act. I'd like to pay tribute to the excellent contribution that was made by my colleague the member for Simcoe East. Certainly, many of the concerns I am going to raise at this time will echo those that have already been made by him.

The member for Scarborough Centre tells us the purpose of this bill is to ensure that individuals who take a pregnancy or parental leave are entitled to the same amount of vacation and sick leave as if they had not taken the leave. The bill is also aimed at ensuring that an employee does not suffer a loss of vacation pay because of the leave, and as well, he has introduced a corresponding amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act for workers who are unable to work because of injury.

He went on to say in his discussion this morning that there is a need for fairness, that there is a need for equality and that there is a need to make sure that parents continue to earn benefits while on leave. I would suggest that there is fairness and there is equality at the present time, because much of what the member is putting forward today was already put in place by Bill 14.

If you remember Bill 14, it was a very important step forward. It gave men and women who became parents, either through birth or adoption, the opportunity to better integrate their work and their family lives, and it gave them the security of job protection. Not only did it give them the security of job protection, but Bill 14 also supported them and gave them continuation of seniority and benefit accumulation through the maternity and parental leave period.

I would suggest to the member for Scarborough Centre that the benefits, the fairness and the equality are already there. I have a tremendous concern about the suggestion and the bill he's put forward this morning, because today we have another example of a government that is trying to introduce legislation without any consultation of all the partners who are needed for the dialogue. We've seen this on Bill 40 and we have seen this on Bill 80.

Nowhere has the member for Scarborough Centre demonstrated the need for this legislation. Nowhere has he been able to demonstrate what the economic impact would be.

1040

That's an area I want to make a few comments about. Much of the legislation that is being introduced and much of the new government regulation that is being introduced has a direct economic impact on the employer. It is the employer who provides jobs, particularly in the small business sector; it is that sector that provides new job creation. We cannot introduce new legislation with a cost to the employer without consulting with those individuals and that has not been done. I would suggest, if the government intends to proceed in this direction, for the first time ever, that it have consultation, that it truly take into consideration all the viewpoints of the people in this province.

Those viewpoints were certainly not taken into consideration during the discussions on Bill 40. During Bill 40, we had five weeks of public hearings and we had 600 written and oral presentations, and we did not even give those people the courtesy of listening to their concerns. The government is rushing through Bill 40, and we only had a chance to debate 32 of the 94 PC amendments.

If that's what they're going to do with this, obviously the indication is that there is no concern for the voice and the viewpoints of all the people in this province. If you're going to introduce this type of legislation, show the need, show the economic impact, have discussion with all the people who are impacted by the legislation and try to arrive at a resolution through consensus. That's what this government needs to start doing, rather than putting people into different camps and different groups and polarizing groups of people.

I would suggest that there's much that needs to be done. I would suggest to the member for Scarborough Centre, if he certainly wishes to do anything further, that he take the points I've raised into consideration.

I'm really surprised about the amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act. This would place, again, another additional burden on the board. My colleague the member for Simcoe East has already talked about the unfunded liability of over \$10 billion. Unless this government starts to take action to bring that debt under control, that debt is going to continue to negatively impact the ability of all Ontario businesses to compete and it's going to have a very negative impact on future employment opportunities in this province and on future investment.

I would suggest that particular system needs a complete overhaul. It's something this government talked about when it was in opposition. They system is outdated. We cannot continue to tinker with the Workers' Compensation Board.

There is a financial crisis at the board. It appears that no one is in control. The funding strategy is flawed, because the assumption that's being made over and over again is that the solution to the financial crisis is simply to raise money to pay for everything and to place a greater burden on the employers in this province. The solution of addressing the broader issue of whether there is a need for structural reform of the system has never, ever been considered by this government, and it's certainly time to do so.

In conclusion, I would have to say that at the present time I think we need to remember that Bill 14 had a significant impact on parents in this province. It does provide them with seniority and benefit accumulation throughout the entire parental leave period, and to suggest that people don't have benefits now is misleading the public.

I am concerned that Mr Owens wants to send it to the resources committee, because we know that the resources committee was not able to listen to the 600 presentations regarding Bill 40 and was not able to do the job adequately.

I would agree that we need to continue to support families in this province, but I have to question whether the type of support this government is offering to families is what families need. I can tell you that I receive many letters weekly from people in the riding of Waterloo North who question government initiatives and their impact on the family. They do not support the direction you are taking. For you to say this is in support of the family, I can tell you that there are many in disagreement with some of your other policies regarding abortion, the extension of benefits to homosexuals and casino gambling. Those are the types of concerns that people in my riding are questioning. They are questioning the impact of some of those decisions on the family, so you need to be aware of that as well.

I would just conclude by saying that we in the PC Party will be voting against this bill, and I would suggest to the member, if he is interested in examining this further, that he make sure that there be an economic impact study and that there be an opportunity for all viewpoints in this province to be not only heard but truly listened to for the first time.

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): It's a privilege to be able to join in this debate on an issue which is fairly basic to working people, particularly working women. I did, however, want to take a few minutes of my time, and I beg the indulgence of my colleague the member for Scarborough Centre on this, because I feel that particularly the third party has raised a number of issues which are really quite extraneous to this bill. They in fact refer to Bill 40, which I understand they have some opposition to, but have presented a rather coloured view of what has transpired.

First and foremost, for the schools that are visiting here today, I'd like to point out that this is private member's hour, and in fact it relates to a private member's bill, not a government initiative. As a result, the kind of consultation both members from the PC Party have raised as a concern for them, as well as, I believe, the member from the Lib-

eral Party, would happen as the bill is developed and goes into committee.

I would like to raise very specifically with the member for Kitchener-Wilmot the fact that her colleague the member for London North spent two years developing a bill relating to bicycle helmets. It took over two years to get this bill developed and through this House. This particular government, our government, took on her cause and that has become government policy.

Now, it didn't come just strictly because it was her bill, a private member's bill, but because it was something that spoke to a need throughout the province. So I think the member for Kitchener-Wilmot in particular would have to concede that the intent of private members' hour is to provide individual members with a chance to talk about their concerns and hopefully affect government policy and decision-making, which the member did.

Overall, these are some of the comments made from the opposition, and they are strictly differences in opinion. If I look at 18 months of consultation strictly on Bill 40, I find some of the comments that were made about the resources development committee or the white paper that was distributed previously totally inappropriate.

I would like also to comment on some of the issues of this bill specifically. I agree with the member for Scarborough Centre that this is a bill that relates to families and the needs of families.

Going home the other day to participate in an event, I had a chance to listen to the CBC and some of the discussions on women and work, something that a great many of us in the working world are aware of, since 52% of the population are women and almost 50% of the workforce happen to be women. A good many of them have children and have had great difficulty in dealing with day care issues and dealing with just basically, in some instances, getting to work because of getting their children out to school and the whole process of timeliness. This one case on the CBC the other day was in fact discussed at some length.

1050

This bill will allow parents who for the most part have not had a choice with regard to child care or some of the other issues—this will give them an additional benefit and I believe in relation to other countries that exist, particularly in Europe where working women are paid at least 90% of their wages for 14 weeks or more—in fact, I recently heard that this has been extended in some jurisdictions, so that these social benefits are an asset to working women and really an asset to all of society. We cannot just look at these as a liability.

Providing appropriate maternity leave benefits is really good for business: better productivity, higher morale. I really want to say that within that higher morale it means there is a stronger allegiance for employees to stay with an employer and that means a much more stable workforce. There are rewards for businesses that allow for substantial family leave plans. In fact, allowing working mothers flexibility on maternity benefits is more than just good business; it's an investment in our future and I think that's something that we all have to recognize. Our children are

our future and by providing that kind of stable situation we do in fact promote our future.

The second part of this bill relates to the Workers' Compensation Act. While I think each and every one of our offices is definitely aware of the problems related to workmen's compensation, we have to be aware that workers who are on compensation are really still employees of that company and should be treated as such. The unfunded liability that some of our previous speakers have mentioned is really the result of a lot of tinkering by previous governments and today this government is left with the problem.

Since time is running out, Mr Speaker, I will in turn allow another member to speak. I thank the member for Scarborough Centre for bringing forward this particular bill.

Mr McLean: On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I believe the record should be clarified for the students who are here. The member for St Catharines-Brock was referring to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot. The member for Kitchener-Wilmot is sitting right over there, not here.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for your observation.

Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I'm very glad to be able to stand in the House this morning in private members' time and support my colleague the member for Scarborough Centre.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): That's a nice button, Gord.

Mr Mills: "I'm for Canada" it's flashing.

I don't know of a member in this Legislature who has a more caring attitude for people in the workplace than my colleague the member for Scarborough Centre.

I was kind of upset that the member for Waterloo North would choose this private members' period to go on about Bill 40, which is really nothing to do with this, and also to lambaste the member for supposedly introducing some sort of government bill without consultation. Of course, everybody here knows very well, and it's been pointed out clearly, that this is private members' time. As the member for Niagara has gone through, we've debated many things here, including the helmet legislation that's gone on through to come before a committee, and the member for Scarborough Centre had that intention when he introduced this this morning.

I can't think of a fairer thing to do when you are injured in the workplace. Nine times out of 10 that injury is through no fault of your own but probably through some sort of malfunction of equipment or whatever. That person who is injured is suddenly cut off from the benefits that he would accrue had he been at work. To me it's a basic statement of fairness. Like the member for Scarborough Centre, I'm interested in fairness and equality. I think this bill addresses that. Why should a worker be penalized twice, why should he be injured and cut off from work and why should he not accrue the benefits that he would accrue, as far as pension and holidays and sick leave credits are concerned, while he's injured?

This act follows up on the Employment Standards Act, which would allow parents on maternity or parental leave to accrue seniority. As a society, we have an obligation to encourage new parents to nurture their children. As some of the other members have already said in the Legislature this morning, our very future, Canada's very future, circles and circumvents around young people, and we have to identify that.

In closing, I would just like to encourage the member for Scarborough Centre to continue the fight to get this before the committee. I would like again to commend him for his sensitivity and his feeling towards working class people, many of whom he represents in Scarborough Centre.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for this chance to make my comments and close off. There's my Canada flag flashing.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Scarborough Centre, you have two minutes to reply.

Mr Owens: I appreciate the comments from the members for Mississauga North, Simcoe East, Middlesex, Waterloo North and St Catharines-Brock, as well as my friend and colleague Mr Mills, the member for Durham East.

It's unfortunate that such a non-partisan bill and non-partisan exercise has been dragged into the trenches of partisan activity. It would be most helpful if members from the opposition first of all knew what they were talking about before they stood up to criticize a piece of legislation.

I'd like to address some of the comments made by the member for Waterloo North. She talks about the amendments to the Employment Standards Act, which include seniority and benefits. That's quite true. If the member for Waterloo North understood the difference between seniority and service, she wouldn't stand up and make such a statement. Seniority is what entitles workers to the order in which they take vacation, the order in which they can apply for jobs, the order in which they are laid off or recalled. It has nothing to do with the accrual of service, which is the entitlement to sick time and vacation credits that this bill addresses.

With respect to Bill 40, some of the comments that were made were clearly inappropriate. The member for Waterloo North talked about the polarization that bill has caused. Let me tell you about polarization. One of the groups that supports the third party's position on this piece of legislation published an ad in a community newspaper in my area. Subsequent to that ad, I received a death threat on my answering machine in my constituency office. If that's the kind of polarization she's talking about, these kinds of wacko tactics are just right out to lunch.

In terms of the comments of the member for Simcoe East, yes, fairness is expensive. We have the opportunity to work together on the committee on the Ombudsman. You're absolutely right: Fairness and justice is an expensive process.

The Deputy Speaker: The time for the first ballot item has expired.

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

Mrs O'Neill moved resolution number 28:

That, in the opinion of this House, 20 months have passed since the New Democratic government was made aware of the physical, mental and sexual abuse inflicted upon residents of the Grandview reform school; and since the acknowledgement of the abuse and the impact this abuse had on its victims the government implemented a six-month package for the Grandview victims that was inclusive of priority access to therapy; and since this package is no longer in effect; and since the victims of Grandview continue to experience mental anguish and remain without any permanent support for priority access to therapy, funds for legal costs, funds for training, and additional compensation; and since the government has, through the introduction of a temporary package, which has now expired, acknowledged the abuse experienced by the Grandview victims as well as their need for compensation and therapy; and since this is a government that claims to be intolerant of abuse against women; the government of Ontario should take steps to immediately establish and implement a compensation program that is inclusive of priority access to a therapist (to be chosen by the victim), ongoing funding and access to training opportunities, financial aid for legal costs, and compensation that will allow the victims to deal with the abuse and devastating effect it has had on their lives.

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The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for Ottawa-Rideau has moved private member's notice of motion number 28. Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the member has 10 minutes for her presentation.

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I rise this morning to introduce a resolution concerning the survivors of the former Grandview Training School for Girls in Cambridge, Ontario. This institution was opened in 1933 as a model for the treatment of adolescent girls who found themselves in trouble with the law and were sometimes described as difficult children, girls who often had a history of abuse at home long before the tragedy of sexual abuse was recognized and treated as publicly as it is now.

The then Minister of Public Welfare, the Honourable W.G. Martin, announced: "This will be a school of training, adjustment and opportunity. We're going to have the finest school in the country for troubled girls." And what happened to these teenagers who were taken to Grandview to be educated and rehabilitated?

In March 1968, the then Minister of Correctional Services, Allan Grossman, stood in this very chamber and stated, "We do not hesitate in expressing our pride in the achievements we have made at Grandview." But the students of Grandview were being sexually and physically abused by the very people who were to be helping them.

To date, after nearly two years of investigation, there have been over 60 women who have come forward with horror stories of the nightmare that was Grandview, women who Kitchener-Waterloo Record reporter Barbara Aggerholm describes as a mixture of women who are educated and undereducated, employed and unemployed, pro-

fessional and non-professional, welfare recipients and salaried, married and single, parents and non-parents. There are women on mothers' allowance and university students, secretaries and indeed a sexual abuse counsellor. Nevertheless, these women have much in common.

Some of them tell us how they cannot remember ever being in a classroom at Grandview. They tell us stories of being driven to self-mutilation to prove to themselves they were human enough to feel. They tell us stories that make all of us want to turn our heads away in shame and horror that young women and teenage girls in our very own province of Ontario could have been so viciously attacked by the very employees of the provincial government that was to be their protector.

We must not continue to turn away from these victims, these survivors. We must show them the compassion, as belated as it is, that the government of Ontario should have shown over the last 20 years.

The response to this tragedy, in my view, has been slow and sporadic by the NDP government. In the beginning, staff resources for the police investigation were allocated very reluctantly by the Solicitor General, Allan Pilkey. To this date almost two years have passed since the first victims began to be questioned, and still not one single charge has been laid.

A minister in this government has resigned as a result of an accusation from a survivor. John Smith, a former Minister of Correctional Services, has made accusations of up to a 15-year coverup. The former chief psychologist has voluntarily left his teaching duties at the University of Ottawa. And very little response to all of these significant events.

As a bare minimum, this government must provide four things to these survivors. The interim counselling that was put in place when the investigation began was, in the view of the survivors, not as accessible or useful as it could have been. It was not directly dedicated to the victims. And with a priority access label, they were placed in an already overburdened system. In addition, the funding contract ran out in August 1992 and I understand is just now being reinstated, nearly two full months later—a major interruption in satisfying a critical need.

The organization contracted to provide counselling, Family Service Ontario, is now being asked to provide the survivors with funding for the counsellor of their choice at the request of the survivors. This direction is impossible. In the absence of legislation regulating social workers, the professionals are unable to provide that choice, and such legislation has not been a priority with the NDP government.

Secondly, this government must provide educational opportunities to the survivors so they can take advantage of their potential. This is an integral part of the process of healing and rebuilding their lives.

Legal funding is also necessary to ensure that the interests of the survivors are met as the criminal investigation continues and moves into the judicial process. It is mandatory that the best legal advice be accessible to these women in this most complex, long-standing and difficult case.

Finally, the victims have repeatedly asked for their individual medical records, which contain information vital to them personally now, information concerning medications they may have been prescribed and whose long-term effects may only now be manifesting themselves. These women have an undeniable right to know their own personal medical histories. To hold this back in the interests of a police investigation which has been dragging on for 20 months without any evidence of progress only serves to compound the sense of frustration, that the system which abused them in the first place still does not care.

As I said, these are minimum requirements which will in a small way help these women get their lives back and make it possible for these women to be more than just survivors. I repeat: counselling, educational and training opportunities, legal assistance and access to medical records—minimal requirements and responses.

When it comes right down to it, what these survivors are asking for is very, very little. They are asking for our respect and our recognition of the unassailable fact that what happened to them was not their fault and not of their doing; that there is no excuse, nor did they deserve to be placed in a dangerous and abusive situation. They are asking us for some reparation, so necessary to their rehabilitation. What happened to these women is a sting on the social conscience of all of us, and it must never, never be allowed to happen again.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I'm pleased to have this opportunity to make a few comments on the resolution from the member for Ottawa-Rideau. This resolution, which concerns the physical, mental and sexual abuse inflicted upon residents of the Grandview reform school, calls on the government of Ontario to establish and implement a compensation program, including access to a therapist, providing funding and access to training opportunities, providing financial aid for legal costs and compensation to allow victims to deal with the abuse and the devastating effect it has had on their lives.

There's no doubt in my mind that the physical, mental and sexual abuse inflicted on residents of the Grandview reform school was an extremely sad occurrence that deprived residents of their dignity. It should never have happened, and similar situations should not be permitted to occur again at any time in the future.

I know how difficult it is to bring a matter like that which occurred at Grandview to the attention of the government. In November 1987, I urged the Minister of Health of the day to investigate living conditions and allegations of abuse in an Uptergrove group home. I would like to tell you a little bit about this very disturbing incident.

In May 1985, Joseph Kendall was discharged from the Queen Street Mental Health Centre in Toronto to Cedar Glen Boarding Home, a privately run home for ex-psychiatric patients and people with developmental disabilities at Uptergrove near Orillia. In November 1987, Mr Kendall died in hospital after he had been assaulted at Cedar Glen.

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Following Mr Kendall's death, an employee, who wished to remain anonymous, met me at my Orillia constituency office and told me about the deplorable health and squalid living conditions at this facility.

I tried to make the Health minister aware that health and living conditions at Cedar Glen were extremely unsatisfactory and that residents were not getting the care, treatment and dignified living conditions they rightly deserved. But I ran into a stone wall because the ex-psychiatric and developmentally disabled patients at Cedar Glen did not fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. They were people living in a private boarding house that was not regulated by the Ontario government and, sadly, they had fallen through the cracks.

A 61-day inquest, the longest ever held in Canada, contained 83 sweeping recommendations when it released its report in 1990. "We, the jury, are shocked and appalled at the way the vulnerable adult is forced to live in this province," said a preamble written by the foreman in the jury's 17-page report. "These people are Canadian citizens—some are veterans who have fought for this country—and they have had their rights and dignity stripped from them and were put into society to live in conditions that are degrading at best." That's what the foreman said in his preamble.

We should all be shocked at the appalling incidents such as those that occurred at Cedar Glen and Grandview. We should all work towards ensuring that similar incidents do not occur again in the future. Governments cannot let people in their care fall through the cracks. There's no doubt in my mind that we cannot deny victims of physical, mental and sexual abuse proper access to therapy, access to training opportunities, financial aid for legal costs and compensation that will allow victims to deal with the abuse and the devastating effect it has had on their lives. This is a fact that I do not and, in all good conscience, cannot argue with. None of us can.

It is my hope that the current government will come up with the necessary funds already in the coffers to accomplish the goal of this resolution without imposing another burden on the taxpayers of this province.

I wanted to express my views on some of the experiences I've had, to try to make the government aware of some of the other situations. I think this resolution brings to this House today a very important debate.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I rise to support the member's motion. I think it's very important that we deal with these crucial issues, issues that for far too long have been left buried.

I also want to state very firmly that our party can be proud of its record in these areas. Back in 1968, 24 years ago, the member for Beaches-Woodbine, one of our members, rose in this House and questioned the treatment that young girls were receiving in that facility. At that time, the then minister ignored his complaints, belittled him, brought forth all of these accusations about his qualifications and said, how dare he speak.

He brought forth a number of issues from psychologists and psychiatrists. Those issues were known to the

government at that time and it took no action; it ignored and it covered up. These are examples of tacit approval.

At that time, the member for Beaches-Woodbine was very qualified to speak on those issues. He had for most of his life worked with troubled adolescents. Let me read to you the Hansard from that date: "Is the honourable member able to inform us—we're really curious—about his professional qualifications?"

Let me tell you, that man's professional qualifications stood well above those that the minister was talking about. His professional qualifications included a membership in the academy of certified social workers. That's a profession that's not recognized in this province. It wasn't recognized by the Conservative government at that time. I'll tell you who the member was who spoke against him. It was a member of the Liberal Party at that time. That's still ongoing, and of course the province of Ontario is the only one without recognition. In five years and in 42 years, that hasn't occurred.

Troubled adolescents present a great deal of problem to our system, to our social services, because these young girls are very troubled. They've often been victims of abuse themselves. They're difficult to deal with. They present many problems. I know; I myself have worked extensively in children's mental health centres. Frankly, it is difficult to deal with them, and I appreciate those concerns, but these are also people who when they enter those institutions are victims themselves. There is no reason to condone or in any way approve of those abuses, as was done at that time.

When they enter those institutions, we as a community, as a society, should expect that the professionals who deal with them can deal with them in a trusting, competent way, and that was not done. The question arises—we hear this in the media a lot—why should there be some sort of historical retribution, some compensation for victims so many years later? I'll tell you why: because the effects of those abuses don't go away overnight. Those effects stay with them for a long time.

I can tell you from my own personal experience—I am quoting here from a book which contains an article written by Drummond White: Having worked for many years, long before these issues became current and popular, with a group of adults who were molested as children, yes, those very young women who now suffer the effects of those abuses, I can tell you about my own experiences with those women. My experiences included women who've become so socially isolated that they became strangers to themselves, to their own community. They became dissociated from their own lives. They forgot. Those memories were so horrible that they had to block them out.

We have tremendous costs on a long-term basis. We have women who have suffered and suffered greatly who, as a result, often commit suicide, often are not the most sympathetic of women. But it is not their fault, as the member mentioned. They are suffering the effects of those abuses, long-term, profound abuse and long-term, profound effects. They need to receive the best of all possible care. It needs to be sensitive.

There are, I understand, some 60 women who have come forth, and I want to commend them for doing so. It is very difficult for these women to do so. I also want to say that many more will too, because these are women who have spent most of their lives hiding, most of their lives feeling as if they were responsible for the abuse that was inflicted upon them.

These are very grave effects and they have profound social and economic costs. These groups need our support, the groups for the survivors. They need our support. They are an essential way for those people to get the help they need, to feel a connection, to feel they are okay, that others have gone through the same thing and that it wasn't their fault. They also need professional help, sensitive professional help that deals with their issues, with their concerns and how these things have affected them.

I think the best way of doing this is to ensure that those practitioners who provide those services can offer them to them so that they have priority, so they can get those services as they need them and have some power in their own lives to be able to select the treating professionals they need, those trained social workers or other practitioners who offer those services. I know the Ontario Association of Family Service Agencies is very supportive of these kinds of treatments. I can say that very easily because, of course, this program represented a family service agency that I was working for at the time and that supported those programs.

I hope that my colleagues will be able to talk about how our government has responded, and I hope to hear that it has responded sensitively to their needs and will continue to do so.

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Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I would like to begin by thanking and commending the member for Ottawa-Rideau for bringing forward this resolution, which is very sensitive, which is very important, and which is a matter of dealing with a shame and a blot on Ontario's history.

As the member for Ottawa-Rideau has said, we cannot, we must not, turn away from these victims any longer. These victims of the Grandview incidents have called themselves "walking time bombs." They are among the most vulnerable in our society, and a major cause of that has been what they endured while they were at Grandview. They are fragile and vulnerable, and surely we, of all people, should be the first to say that this shameful coverup must end: decades and decades of people who refused to bring it forward.

The one encouraging thing about all this is that a group of these women have banded together to help themselves, to join together to try to offer this kind of support. I just want to read you a quote from one of the women, Karen Schmidt, who went to Grandview in 1969 at age 15 and stayed there almost three years. "We believe by joining together we can help each other deal with the pain associated with our memories, and persuade the government and the public to take the matter seriously," she said. It's very sad when it comes to that before the public and the government will take these victims seriously.

They have also been offered help from the rape crisis centres, and we thank them for their support during this very difficult period. But, quite frankly, self-support and support of some of the organizations is not enough. As the member for Ottawa-Rideau has pointed out, government has fallen short.

There has been no dedicated funding to them. Yes, they were granted a very short interim funding plan of six months, but they had to join the lineup. As the member for Durham Centre has said, this is not good enough. They must be given priority.

Secondly, there must be educational opportunities. For instance, the government recently settled the St John's-St Joseph's boys' schools dispute. The settlement provided victims with financial compensation as well as funds for training. This same kind of settlement should be reached with the Grandview victims. It is only fair and it is only right.

Legal funding, again, is a very important priority for these victims so that they can seek redress.

Finally, the medical information must be released. To deny the victims this information is just an infringement on their human rights, and I think this is vital if they are to go ahead and put this behind them.

I think we must agree and we will agree as members that children deserve to be safe from abuse in our institutions. The question is, are we as government moving forward and acting in the best way we can to ensure that happens? I was quite encouraged over a year ago, almost a year and a half ago, in June 1991, when these stories started coming to light and the Minister of Community and Social Services, Zanana Akande, indicated she had not ruled out a provincial inquiry to ensure that young people are protected from sexual abuse in institutions.

In an interview the minister said, "I can't turn back the clock, but I do want to make sure that these people are being helped and...I do want to make sure that we are creating situations where this is not happening today." Isn't that what it comes down to? Not only assisting those victims from the past, but also in making sure that our children are safe in institutions today.

The minister seemed to suggest that the funding and provision of counselling programs for Grandview victims would be a priority, as would ensuring the safety of children currently residing in provincial institutions. However, it wasn't till February 28 of this year that funding for counselling was finally provided for Grandview survivors, and now we find out that funding, as little as it was, has ended.

I think there are a number of things we can do. The one thing our leader, Lyn McLeod, has suggested is that the recommendations contained in Joanne Campbell's report—a commission following allegations of abuse at St Joseph's and St John's training schools—provided a blueprint to ensure that provincially operated facilities provided a safe and secure environment for children in care.

The NDP government has announced funding to improve training for staff and also to educate children of their rights and how to report abuse. But I say there's much more to be done. First of all, we must ensure that support

for the victims. Secondly, additional OPP resources should be dedicated to the investigation to make sure that we understand exactly what happened and so that we can ensure it never happens again. Finally, we should call for an investigation into incidents of sexual abuse in provincial facilities. Surely the events at Bell Cairn bear out that this is necessary.

In my closing comments I would just like to echo those of the member for Ottawa-Rideau, "It is our duty and our responsibility as members to ensure that this never, ever happens again."

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): At the outset I wish to commend the member for Ottawa-Rideau for bringing forward this resolution. I have on occasion had opportunities to talk to her about this issue. As members are probably aware, I raised this issue both in the media and in this House back in May 1991 and at that time called for a public inquiry based on the information I had received from victims through the efforts of the journalists at the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, in particular Barb Aggerholm.

Since having raised the issue and since commenting publicly in several forums, I've had the rare privilege of having been contacted by the victims themselves, and within a very careful and very sensitive environment, along with their therapist, have been invited to meet with them to discuss at length and in detail the circumstances that brought them to Grandview and the circumstances that have brought them to this point in their lives when they are prepared to deal with the devastation of their treatment, both prior to and leading up to Grandview and their experience at Grandview.

I can only say that nothing in my life prepared me for the three and a half hours I spent meeting with these victims. I appreciate the fact that I've never had to experience the kinds of horrors, nor was I able to fully comprehend through the eyes of a woman just how serious are the tragedies that have befallen such a large number of girls and children.

We must remind all members of the House that these were children, in almost all cases, who were forced to attend Grandview centre. In almost every single case, and there's been enough documentation to date, these children were themselves victims of emotional, physical and sexual abuse in and around their home. I'm not saying all cases of children who were referred to Grandview, but in almost all cases.

What we have here is a situation where, as I talked to one girl—and I'll refer to her as Mary because I wish to protect her anonymity—she sat down and began to explain how she had been sexually assaulted by her father at age eight. Her mother, when she asked her for help, refused to acknowledge it. When she went to her priest, he refused to acknowledge it. Through a process of fleeing the home, she was charged with delinquency. She engaged in activities in her community and was picked up by the police.

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At age 11, this girl was used by the police, with wire-tapping information, to get a prostitution conviction of an

individual in her community. When she went, in her anonymity as an 11-year-old child, before the judge in his private chambers, it was fully disclosed and known how she had assisted the police and the circumstances leading up to her abuse. Yet, out of convenience, this girl, because the family did not wish to deal with the allegations of incest and sexual assault in the home, had been sent away. It was convenient to the police and the magistrate in that jurisdiction. These are the documented facts.

Why I share that terrible story with the members of this House is because we must have a public inquiry for these survivors because a police inquiry will not work. In virtually every case there has been some degree of abuse by authority. Whether it is the parent, whether it is the school, whether it is the police and, in several cases, the magistrate or the judge, these women have been badly hurt by positions of authority. So what do we, as legislators, come up with? We'll have an inquiry done by the police. A male authority figure is going to go in and start talking to one of these victims after she has been sexually assaulted.

I am told by the group of survivors that there could be as many as 20 to 25 former inmates who are today, in the city of Toronto, actively involved in prostitution. This is not an unusual circumstance. Victims of sexual assault and incest generally, if they cannot receive treatment, support and assistance, end up in a life of prostitution. We expect, in our arrogance, that a police officer is going to be able to go into their homes and get depositions from these people. One police officer has been assigned to this case. When they started to realize that there was sexual involvement with some of the police officers, then they thought they'd bring in the OPP.

I support fully the public statement of my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold, who said this is probably going to be another coverup, because he understands the point I'm raising in the House that these women will not get a proper hearing.

The second victim I met with at length was Sara. She was shaking. She would not talk to the police. After pouring out all of her history, her story, dates and details, she couldn't bring herself to talk to a police officer because she'd been abused by a police officer. You can't blame the girl for that. She's struggling to put her life together. She has a child of her own. She's trying to protect her child. She's afraid that if she comes forward, she'll lose her child.

She, in that moment of dignity, had the courage to ask the question, "Mr Jackson, you don't think I was bad, do you?" That's how frail and how battered these women are, but within them there is enough dignity if we understand what they've gone through and if we respond accordingly.

We need a public inquiry where these women will be given the protection they need in order to come forward with the facts. A police inquiry will not do that, and we know that. We must ensure that it is an as-of-right fact in this province. We're one of the few provinces that doesn't acknowledge that victims of incest and sexual assault should be guaranteed therapy services and access to psychiatric support services. Not to sound partisan, but if we, the last province in Canada, don't have a victim's bill of

rights which acknowledges that victims of sexual assault deserve and must have the healing treatment of qualified therapists and psychiatrists, then these women will never be able to resolve the struggle that has gone on inside of them.

In Ontario today, these women are completely ineligible for criminal injuries compensation funding, because we have the lowest access rate in Canada for women and victims of sexual assault in this province to those funds. Why? Because our system doesn't acknowledge and understand the need.

There are serious health care cuts going on in this province, and we know that these are included among them, but I ask the members of this House to understand the depth of this problem, to listen to all members of this House who are saying that we don't necessarily need another police investigation. It failed in the 1960s. The first part of this police investigation is failing and the concluding one from the OPP will fail. The women will not come forward with all of their information, because they're not protected.

I would like to go on and talk about the devastation that's occurring with children's aid society funding. They were eligible for 0.5% from this government. There's an 80% increase in sexual assault on children today. The Grandview survivors, if asked, will tell you, "I'm coming forward because today children are being sexually assaulted, and I don't want them to go through what we're going through." There are five-, six-, eight-week waiting lists for children with reported sexual abuse. It's going on in this province today. The political will to resolve the Grandview issue and those children who are the ongoing victims of sexual, emotional and physical abuse at home must be a priority for us if we are to give those children any sense of dignity and hope.

One of the victims wanted me to share with the House part of a poem she had written, because she knew that many of the Grandview survivors would be watching today in the House. In 1986, years after her incident, Sherry wrote a poem, *Because I Am*:

Because I am and will continue to be
A human being, alive and free
Free to choose and free to decide
Free to become my own life's guide.
Because I am.

Because I am and will continue to be
A human being, with dignity,
A dignity that struggles to stay alive
A dignity that says I will survive
Because I am me.

On behalf of the Grandview survivors, I ask all members of the House, on behalf of these victims, for their dignity, for their own self-empowerment, for a signal from this legislative chamber, because we represent what society will say and do for these victims. We must respond with the proper support services and get past the politics of a coverup and respond accordingly with sensitivity to these victims. They deserve no less.

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I just have to say, after the previous member has spoken, that I think all of our offices are acutely aware of the situation and, in fact, all of our offices are probably advocating for people from Grandview. I know we take our job very, very seriously. These are very human and very real issues.

Speaking specifically to the member for Ottawa-Rideau's resolution, I will say to her that I will be supporting her resolution in principle, but I do have one or two concerns with regard to how the resolution is structured, and I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight with regard to some of the comments made.

First and foremost, the therapy package that she makes mention of, as she corrected within her comments, had no break in service at all. In fact, all of the people who were to receive service have received service and will continue to receive service into the new year, and the contract relating to counselling will, in fact, be renegotiated. That is the commitment, and no one will be abandoned.

Counsel for the Ministry of the Attorney General, who is in fact leading on this issue, is meeting this week with the executive of the Grandview survivors' group to determine what additional financial needs it has. Quite clearly, compensation is an option, as the member for Eglinton raised, and negotiations will undoubtedly at some point take place.

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This resolution calls for the government to take immediate action. It is our belief that immediate action was taken. As soon as women came forward their needs were responded to by this government. Our government negotiated with survivors through Family Service Ontario. Acknowledgement was made that choice for former Grandview residents is crucial and important and that women who come forward should receive service that is appropriate to meet their needs. It is my view that for the most part, and I'm not suggesting in all cases, that has been accomplished.

We continue as a government to have ongoing discussions with the women who have come forward regarding future service provision, funding for their organization, as well as compensation. Our commitment as a government is zero tolerance; it has been the policy of this government from the beginning. The Ontario women's directorate is working diligently to make all Ontarians aware that this problem must be rooted out. The past shows us that we have a long way to go but I believe also that we have made some headway. I also want to comment on the fact that there is additional funding that has taken place over recent time, that when money was required by the organization, in fact it was allocated.

In conclusion, I think the resolution is fundamentally incorrect and based on some misconceptions, but I will support in principle the intent of the resolution, as our government is committed to supporting women and this government is intolerant of abuse against women.

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I rise in support of my colleague's motion and join in the debate.

I'm very pleased to see that the government members, at least those who have spoken, have indicated that they are going to be supporting this motion because I think it is important to look at the wording at the end of the member for Ottawa-Rideau's resolution where the focus of our time and our attention should be on the services, the help, the assistance that the victims require.

I don't think there is anything for a minister in any government more horrible than to have someone come in to tell you about allegations of abuse. As members will know, it was the question of St John's, the school in Alfred, that came to the fore when I served as Minister of Community and Social Services. I can remember, somewhat similar to my colleague from Burlington South as he recounted some of the discussions that he had with victims from Grandview, that as one talked to those who had the courage to come forward, we don't always realize, I think, those of us who by good fortune have not had to suffer through what these victims have, the incredible courage that it takes to stand up and to say what happened. We know that in the past and regrettably probably even in the present there are times when young people who are in our care, who are dealing with people in positions of trust, come forward to report things which are either not believed or which perhaps members of the adult community would prefer not to deal with. Then how does that young person go on trying to come to grips with it?

So as we sat down at that time to try to work out the kinds of services, the kinds of support, the kinds of assistance that would be required by the victims from the Alfred situation, I think what was clear to me was that the focus must always be on ensuring that the people who need services receive them and that somehow in the priorities that we set, whether in individual ministries or by the government, whatever else is going on, let's make sure that those are there, whether that is through ultimately a victims' bill of rights or simply a clear enunciation of government policy followed up by the kinds of services and funds required, I think for the victims it is the day of access to first-class aid and assistance. That is what I think as a Legislative Assembly we want to make clear.

I want to draw attention again to the report prepared by Joanne Campbell, The Review of Safeguards in Children's Residential Programs. There are always two things we're dealing with here. The first is to deal with certain actions that took place in the past, and where we want to do right by the victims, not only in terms of compensation but in terms of the rest of their lives, that the kind of help, whether job training or whatever kind of support they need, is there.

Of course, it also then raises the question, can we feel confident that similar things are not going on, that we are providing the children we currently have in care with the best protection possible?

The Joanne Campbell report, which came out of the St John's issue two years ago, was released in I think December 1990. I suggest to the government that it might be useful, as we are looking at the Grandview incident and as people are wondering about what protections are in place, to provide for the public an update on the recommendations

provided in the report and the steps the government has taken to implement them.

I think there was an agreement at the time that Ms Campbell was an excellent person to undertake the review. I believe the report she prepared was an excellent one. There were many good things in it: many of the recommendations in terms of the training those working in care of children are receiving, the kind of response system one wants to have. As always in these cases, there is a need by the public—indeed a right the public has—to know that for the children in care today in the various institutions run by Community and Social Services, Correctional Services or any government agency, we really have moved far beyond the kind of care available in this case to the women at Grandview. I think that would be a useful step forward.

The other question that comes up when we look at this is what the range of services required is and how we go about funding them. Again, I think we know through the St John's matter and the Grandview matter that it is quite likely we're going to hear of other cases. I think people take courage from those who have come forward and, as we have seen and will see again, more will come forward to say, "These are things that happened." That means that what the government needs to do to respond to that is to have a more structured program, with a clearer set of the kinds of services that will be available, how people can access them and how, over a period of time, those services will continue.

I know the honourable member who spoke just before me has said that the services for the Grandview victims are continuing, but we know from the estimates discussion with the minister that there was a breakdown at one point where those services weren't there. If we have a more structured system in place, that won't happen, and we will be able to ensure that all of those who need help will get it.

We should go back as well to the comments made by the member for Burlington South around the dilemma that faces the victim, how they view us in authority and how we must try to break through that lack of trust which has grown up because people along the way—different people in the system, whether police officers, social workers, members of the family, health workers, any particular part of society—have not helped, or there's a feeling simply that their trust was misused and they didn't get the assistance they wanted. That is the reality, and no matter our suspicions of wanting to help, people are going to be suspicious.

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I think that means there needs to be some more structured response where, when people need help or want to come forward, that can be done. How is that organized? We have a number of different ways of protecting children, but I think we're simply going to have to strengthen them. I believe the Campbell report was a good place to start. Let's provide the services to the Grandview victims, make sure that's all there, and then let's move on and create a way of responding in future to the concerns those people are going to be bringing. I think one of the ways to start is to support my colleague's motion.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): As I listened to Mr Jackson and Mr Beer indicate on the bottom section of the resolution, I must agree with them: The bottom section of the resolution is an important one. Speaking on behalf of the ministry, I think we've identified that.

A number of issues have been brought forward about the interruption of services. The interruption of services never happened. The Ministry of Community and Social Services, with the Attorney General's office, is going to continue working with those victims on an ongoing basis.

If I were to stand here before you today and talk about how the victims feel, I think I'd be misleading a lot of people. What I can say is that I know the minister and the ministry itself are looking forward to working and continuing to work.

As we talk about these incidents that took place between 1960 and 1970, and the school closing in 1976, when it was brought to light in the early 1990s, it's something that was deeply embedded. The counselling my colleague Mr Drummond White had brought forward, the available services, the services required for people, are very important. It's a very deep issue that you have to kind of move into and try to bring out of individuals.

There is a continuing police investigation going on about what happened around this time period. Some of the charges are still pending, and it's very hard to make comment on that. But what we can make comment on is where the government is looking to continue and has continued the support programs that are in place. We're extending programs to March 31, 1993, and also the organizational support from November 30, 1992. But we will find out, through the dialogue, about services that need to be provided, because I believe that each individual case will be of significant difference.

I don't believe there will be two similar situations that you can compare. I believe in the continual approach of self-help groups to identify what took place in that time, because you have to go back a number of years and try to bring this out.

Mr McLean brought up important issue. I think it is very good to address it this time. It's around the Advocacy Act. It's very important to talk about the vulnerable people who are out there.

Mr Jackson also raised a number of points about the children of today's society. It's unfortunate that these incidents are happening, but I think we have to do an analysis of our society and ask why it is happening and look at the global picture of things and how we resolve this situation.

As my colleagues from this side of the House have indicated, we will be supporting the resolution. As Mr Jackson says, "Don't look at this in the political sense." That's exactly what we're not going to do; we're going to look at the contents of the bottom paragraph of this resolution.

The women's directorate and I have the privilege of working with the Minister of Community and Social Services, who is also the minister responsible for women's issues. This government continues to put its support to try to help the women of Ontario. We will continue to do that

through a number of programs that were implemented in November 1990 and May 1991.

This government will continue to support the victims of Grandview, the victims who are outside in the province of Ontario, who are very important for us. I think as we members of the Legislature listen very closely, we'll be able to provide the mechanisms to solve the problems.

Mrs O'Neill: I am delighted that all members of the House are in agreement with my resolution that what the women of Grandview suffered is a stain on our social conscience, no matter which side of the House we sit on, and must never be allowed to happen again.

I have some difficulty with the accusations that I am dealing with misconceptions. I do keep in very close touch with the president of the survivors' group. There was certainly some misunderstanding and interruption of services at the end of August. I think that has been remedied.

The group support also seems at times to be very fragmented. The women expressed their needs to me in that they meet a wall of silence when they deal with the government, and a chasm of misunderstanding. The survivors know what their needs are and we must attempt to meet them, not with short-range March 31, 1991, deadlines, or August 30, 1992. This in itself builds in insecurities.

The victims themselves have talked to me about the zero tolerance statement of this government as sometimes being totally irrelevant to their experience. I am just bringing to you what their statements to me have been.

This morning we have had agreement, and I hope with that commitment the Grandview survivors will begin to have their real needs met. We must remove, once and for all, every suspicion of a coverup in this case. I'm very happy that all sides of the House appreciate what these victims are suffering and the cost it has been to them as individuals. I underline again, and all members have underlined, that it was not their fault. That is what makes this so very tragic.

The Grandview survivors' group needs support, the individuals need support, and I certainly think this structured support and response system that has been lacking should be put into place.

The Deputy Speaker: The time provided for private members' business has expired.

LABOUR STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LES LOIS CONCERNANT LE TRAVAIL

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will deal first with ballot item number 25, standing in the name of Mr Owens. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise?

Mr Owens has moved second reading of Bill 82, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act and the Workers' Compensation Act. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. I declare the motion carried.

Pursuant to standing order 94(f), this bill is referred to the committee of the whole House.

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): I'd like to request that the bill be referred to the standing committee on resources development.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the bill be referred to the standing committee? Agreed? All those in favour of the motion will please rise so that your numbers can be counted.

Please take your seats. The member for Welland-Thorold, would you please take your seat.

There is clearly a majority in favour that this bill be sent to the standing committee, therefore it will be referred to the standing committee.

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mrs O'Neill has moved private member's notice of motion number 28. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of this motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. This will be a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1200 to 1205.

The Deputy Speaker: Mrs O'Neill has moved resolution number 28. All those in favour of the motion will please—

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: No, no, this is not a bill; this is a resolution. Mrs O'Neill has moved resolution number 28. All those in favour of the motion will please rise and remain standing until your names are called.

Ayes

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Callahan, Carter, Cooper, Coppen, Cunningham, Curling, Dadamo, Daigeler, Drainville, Duignan, Elston, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jackson, Johnson, Kormos, Lessard;

MacKinnon, Mahoney, Mammoliti, Marchese, Mathysen, McLean, McLeod, Mills, Morrow, O'Connor, Offer, O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Owens, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Rizzo, Sterling, Stockwell, Sutherland, Villeneuve, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Simcoe West), Witmer.

The Deputy Speaker: All those opposed to the motion of Mrs O'Neill will please rise and remain standing until your name is called.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 48, the nays 0.

The Deputy Speaker: The ayes are 48, the nays are 0. I declare the motion carried.

All matters relating to private members' business having been completed, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30.

The House recessed at 1208.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WESTWAY AFRICAN CHOIR

Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber): At a time when all of us are trying to honour the unique and precious multicultural heritage that is ours in Ontario, and at a time when nations around the world are struggling to build bridges among peoples of different races, colours and religions, I want to pay tribute to the unique and very special contribution of the Westway African Choir at the Westway United Church in my riding of Etobicoke-Humber.

The Westway African Choir was formed in 1989 at a meeting of the Ghanaian brothers and sisters of the Westway United Church. The leader, and in many ways the driving figure, of this fine choir group has been Mr Kwasi Akuamoah Boateng, who has continued as the choir's director.

I had the pleasure of hearing the Westway African Choir perform at CultureFest in Etobicoke, and I was enchanted by the beautiful melody and striking rhythm that the members of this choir brought to their evangelical musical ministry.

I'm rising to pay tribute to Mr Boateng and the 20 or so active members of the Westway African Choir. They render a magnificent service in my constituency and, indeed, throughout the province and for the province of Ontario. The members of this assembly join me in wishing them well and in urging them to keep up their fine contribution to our cultural heritage in Ontario.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is directed to the Ministry of Natural Resources, and it concerns its misguided forest policy. The minister has only been in the House about three times since this session opened, and his total disrespect for this House is not going unnoticed.

The future for three tree growers in northwestern Ontario is particularly grave because none of the growers has contracts from your government for seedling production for the 1993 season.

At the same time there exists a serious lack of effort on the part of your government to settle simple negotiations with paper companies that would enable direct contracting with tree seedling producers in northwestern Ontario. Seedling producers have been informed by the paper companies that they are ready and eager to negotiate for the seedlings for 1993, but the holdup lies in the pulp and paper industry's inability to access the appropriate bureaucrats in order to come to an agreement.

Minister, the implications of your misguided forest policy on the tree seedling industry and all those employed in it are obviously devastating. The ramifications for our forests are equally in trouble.

Your current ministry budget allocates approximately \$230 million to forestry over the next three years, and you plan to cut that by \$100 million, \$40 million to be slashed in the first year alone. You are feeding the current recession, rather than alleviating it, by killing off Ontario's forest industry.

EVENTS IN BEACHVILLE

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I rise today to correct an historical error regarding the first recorded game of baseball.

Documents show that a baseball game took place June 4, 1838, in Beachville, Ontario, in Oxford county, a full year before Abner Doubleday's claims for Cooperstown, New York.

It was almost 50 years afterwards that Dr Adam Ford, after moving to Denver, Colorado, reminisced about the sports of his youth in Oxford county.

In 1886 he wrote a letter to the editor of *Sporting Life*. He described a game played "in a nice, smooth pasture field just back of Enoch Burdick's shops" in Beachville. Research has confirmed many of the details of the day as he recounted them: the pasture, the players, the homemade ball and bats, even the militia unit that stopped to watch the game.

This kind of historical information is available to us because of the work of the Beachville District Historical Society Museum. The staff even helped to organize a recreation of the first game on its 150th anniversary in 1988.

Last July it was especially pleasing for me to announce on behalf of the Minister of Culture and Communications that the Beachville District Historical Society Museum would receive up to \$11,000 to help build an additional exhibition space.

The historical society has also another tie to baseball history. Earlier this year it moved to a grey stone house, built in 1851. The house has been owned by a local quarry operation, Beachville Lime Ltd. Beachville, of course, is the lime capital of Canada, and over the years its products have been used to line countless baseball diamonds across North America.

In closing, I hope our good friends and neighbours to the south don't take offence when I turn their sports mythology upside down by explaining that baseball has always been our game and we will demonstrate that tonight when Canada's team, the Toronto Blue Jays, claim the World Series title by winning game 5.

STEVE MacLEAN

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): Today, Steve MacLean, a resident of Nepean, will become the third Canadian to reach space. This is a very proud moment, foremost for Steve and his wife, Nadine, and for his parents, Paul and Helen, who reside in my great city as well. But it is also a special moment for all people of Nepean. My fellow citizens and I join in the pride and excitement of the MacLean family and wish Steve every success in his research mission in space.

Nine years of strenuous training have preceded this trip to space, not to mention the tremendous efforts that went into his selection in 1983 from 4,400 applicants as one of Canada's first six astronauts.

Nepeanite Steve MacLean is a two-time Canadian gymnastics champion, the President's Medal winner at York University, an esteemed astrophysicist, a rock climber, a pilot and a parachutist.

As a payload specialist during his mission on spaceship Columbia, MacLean will do experiments on behalf of Canadian scientists. His biggest task will be to test the space vision system which will help future astronauts better guide the robotic Canadarm.

On behalf of everyone in Nepean, I invite my colleagues in the Ontario Legislature to join me in congratulating astronaut Steve MacLean and wishing him a safe and successful return to planet earth.

HEALTH LEGISLATION

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): My statement today is about a concern I and many others have with the Health Protection and Promotion Act. My particular concerns with this piece of legislation were brought forward in a meeting I had with the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association and stem from its frustration in trying to find out if members of its association have come in contact with a person who has a communicable disease in the course of their duties.

We are asking the emergency care providers of this province to protect our health without giving them the means to protect their own. Ontario firefighters, ambulance drivers and police officers provide an invaluable service protecting our families and lives and yet we do not give the ability to protect themselves.

I have prepared a private member's bill that I will be introducing in this Legislature later today, asking for the members of this House to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Amendment Act, thereby allowing people who have been involved in an emergency care situation to be informed by the medical officer of health as to whether they have been exposed to a reportable and communicable disease in the course of helping someone in an emergency situation.

The medical officer of health would be obligated to tell emergency care providers if they had been in contact with an individual who has a communicable disease, thereby allowing the care givers the opportunity to protect themselves and their families from further spread of the disease.

As aware and careful as we are about how to protect ourselves from communicable diseases, we are putting our firefighters, ambulance workers and police officers at great risk when we do not allow them to know if they have come in contact with an individual who has a communicable disease.

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STUDENT NEWSPAPERS

Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East): At Ontario's universities our young people, our next generation, receive the education to cope with the world they will

inherit. The intellectual disciplines of academe demand the ability to deconstruct writing, to be aware of the history of society's institutions, to have the ability to analyse statistics to ensure that published studies have validity, to write defensible papers based on carefully studied facts.

I would like to commend the learning and teaching of the students on a number of student newspapers: the *Varsity* at the University of Toronto, the *Arthur* at Trent, the *Lance* at Windsor, the *Ontarian* at the University of Guelph and *Excalibur* at York University.

They have voted to pull their papers, which have a combined circulation of over 100,000, out of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association because of that organization's tendentious campaign against Bill 40. Obviously they would be embarrassed to be associated with the selected facts and unsupportable assertions of OCNA's campaign.

Let me quote Drew Davis, editor of Guelph's *Ontarian*, who says: "Newspapers have a special responsibility to provide balanced and fair coverage of the news. To take an active part in opposing or supporting legislation in the way OCNA has done is totally unacceptable."

We must never minimize the value of a free and objective press. I hope members of this House will join me in complimenting the students on their well-thought-out and principled action.

PERSONS DAY

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): Sixty-three years ago, in an historic decision by the Privy Council of Great Britain, the women of Canada were declared persons and given the right to hold public office. Tomorrow morning, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, which we commonly call LEAF, will hold its fifth annual Persons Day breakfast to commemorate this event.

As amazing as it sounds, before 1929 women were not recognized as persons under our Constitution and under our laws. It took 12 years of hard work by the famous five, led by Nellie McClung, to secure this recognition.

Those of us who today enjoy all the advantages of personhood, including the right to serve in this Legislature, owe a great deal to those women who worked so hard for so long to advance the cause of women. They established that we not only have the right to vote but also the right to fully participate.

While the "persons" decision was not a recognition that men and women were equal, it was certainly a pivotal step in the women's movement. Sometimes we get very discouraged, because here, 63 years later, we're still fighting the battle for pay equity, child care, freedom of choice and the ability to live free from the threat of violence in our homes and in our communities. But without the initiative seized by those suffragettes, we would not have advanced as far as we have today. We owe Nellie McClung and the women who pioneered the women's rights movement our eternal gratitude.

HOPE PLACE WOMEN'S TREATMENT CENTRE

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): In recognition of International Persons Day for Women, I wish to acknowledge the important services being provided by

Hope Place Women's Treatment Centre in Milton to women suffering from alcohol addiction.

Hope Place fills a great need in Halton and Peel regions, where there are over 8,000 women requiring addiction treatment services. For the past two and a half years Hope Place has been providing community-based treatment for 200 women it successfully assists each year. Its treatment programs are oriented to address the specific problems of women alcoholics. Many women alcoholics are victims of physical and sexual abuse who also suffer additional scorn for their addiction by a society that refuses to recognize their victimization by male-dominated relationships and institutions.

Hope Place may itself, however, become a victim at the hands of the NDP Health minister, who is refusing to adequately fund the treatment centre. A year ago the Health minister announced she was cutting OHIP benefits to Ontario residents who receive alcohol treatment services in the US when not available in Ontario. We believed she was sincere then when the minister promised to divert those funds to improved community-based treatment programs and centres in our province.

Why now is the minister cutting this funding for centres like Hope Place? I call on the Minister of Health to reconsider her confusing funding priorities, especially with respect to the needs of vulnerable women in Ontario.

FOSTER FAMILY WEEK

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): On behalf of the government and all members of this House I am pleased to join the Canadian Foster Family Association in declaring this week, October 18 to 24, Canadian Foster Family Week.

Foster Family Week is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate and recognize the important role foster families play in providing a safe, stable and caring environment for children who require alternative family settings. The 54 children's aid societies in Ontario provide substitute care to more than 19,000 children annually. As of December 31, 1991, about 55% of those children were being cared for in over 4,800 foster homes.

During Canadian Foster Family Week, foster families, children's aid societies and foster parent associations throughout the province will be involved in a wide variety of special events designed to recognize people who are currently foster parents and to potentially recruit new foster families.

I know I speak for everyone here when I say thank you to all the foster parents in Ontario for their dedication and concern for the special needs of children, and to children's aid societies for their ongoing commitment to children in Ontario.

On behalf of Canadian Foster Family Week, we have a number of guests in the members' gallery east representing the Foster Parent Society of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

Also, it's kind of a recruitment drive, and I have a little poster here I'd like to show. It says: "Wanted: Someone to hug and bug. Be a Foster Parent." So if anyone out there is watching and they have any desire to be a foster parent,

they should contact their children's aid society or the foster parent association.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOGEMENTS À PRIX ABORDABLES

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I'm pleased to release in the House today Consultation Counts. It's readable. It's a document that will change the way non-profit housing is delivered in this province. It's the result of the housing framework consultations that we've been working on for more than a year, and it takes non-profit housing in new directions.

We've heard from a range of people who live and work in non-profit housing, and through them we've found ways to improve our non-profit programs. This is a new beginning for non-profit housing.

For six years now, Ontario has delivered provincial non-profit housing programs, and overall we've done a very good job. We've created thousands of homes for Ontarians and generated tens of thousands of jobs. But non-profit housing has changed over the years, and it's time for us to change the way it is delivered and the way it operates.

We know that in the past, consultations have all too often left out the people they affect the most. In the case of non-profit housing, the people who are looking for decent, affordable housing are often the ones who have gone unheard.

Nous voulions nous assurer que ces personnes fassent partie de La consultation : ça compte. Nous les avons rencontrées dans des centres de rencontre et dans des maisons de chambres pour nous assurer qu'elles auraient voix au chapitre dans cette consultation. Les personnes auxquelles nous avons parlé nous ont appris d'importantes leçons.

We heard one particular message over and over again: Residents need to be involved in their housing. It makes sense. Who knows a place better than the people who live in it?

We're taking steps to make sure residents have more say in how their buildings are run. Non-profit communities will now have to have residents on their boards of directors, and residents will be involved in deciding how their buildings are managed.

Non-profit housing has to be more accessible to people with special needs, so we're asking groups to include more of these units in their buildings, and we're looking for designs that can be easily converted into physically accessible units.

We're also going to better coordinate the support services already provided by different ministries.

We also believe that non-profit housing must be more accessible. We want to make it easier to find. We want to simplify the process of getting in and we want people to know how the selection process works.

Pour ce faire, nous prévoyons instaurer un système à «guichet unique» ; les personnes pourront se présenter ou

téléphoner à un endroit où elles pourront obtenir tous les renseignements dont elles ont besoin concernant le logement à but non lucratif.

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We're building a closer partnership with the non-profit sector, a partnership with new ground rules. Non-profit housing has come a long way over the past six years, and so have the people who build and manage it. They have years of experience now and it's time for us to take advantage of what they've learned. It's time for non-profit housing providers to take on more responsibility in terms of their day-to-day management.

We're still going to monitor things like financial accountability, but by concentrating more on end results and less on daily details. These changes will result in less duplication and will create a more efficient program. We're striving to make non-profit housing easier to understand and more sensitive to people's needs.

We're also setting guidelines for the use of government lands for housing. Our new policy will strengthen the requirements for non-profit and affordable market housing on these sites. Under the old policy, 35% of housing on government land had to be affordable. Now 35% will be non-profit and an additional 35% will be affordable market housing. Small sites, those that can accommodate only one project, will be used exclusively for non-profit housing.

As the federal government statistics have stated on many occasions, non-profit housing is keeping our residential construction industry going during these tough times. In fact, this year it will generate 43,000 jobs in Ontario.

The 24,000 non-profit homes that will be under construction this year will provide homes for people like the woman I had tea with at the opening of Rotary Cheshire Homes for Deaf-Blind Adults in North York. For the first time in her life she had a place she could call her own, something she thought she'd never have.

It is true that building this kind of housing is expensive, but when you buy a house you make an investment for the future. That's what we're doing. We're paying off a mortgage instead of paying rent, and at the end of the road we'll have more affordable houses for Ontarians, a lasting investment to show for public dollars.

Consultation Counts is part of this government's continuing commitment to non-profit housing, and I look forward to seeing its policies and principles implemented in Jobs Ontario Homes.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Richard Simmons would be embarrassed about running this on TV.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Why don't you listen?

Mr Stockwell: I heard it. I read it. It's a puff piece, Mills.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Ms Gigantes: We'll be ready to do a proposal call for the program in November and we plan to announce the first allocations early in the new year.

The housing framework consultation has been a long process—longer than we had initially hoped—but it's also

been a very good and a very rewarding one. We're taking non-profit housing in some exciting new directions, and I'm very proud to be part of that effort.

The Speaker: Statements by ministers. Responses.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a number of comments to make in response to the minister's statement today. To say that we've been waiting for this for a long time is an understatement. It's been a year and a half since it was initially introduced. The consultation ended a year ago, we have been asking the minister on a regular basis where it was, and finally we have the document.

It would have been nice, after waiting for a year and half, if the minister's office had had the courtesy to let the critics have a copy prior to 10 minutes before her statement. It's a 47-page document, and to reply with any informed opinion is extremely difficult when we haven't had the opportunity to actually read the document.

There are a number of things which the minister talked about that we definitely support and that I think all members of this House should support.

How could you say that you don't think residents should have more of a say in how their buildings are run? That's very important. How can you say that you don't believe it should be accessible? Of course non-profit housing should be accessible, and we believe in going in this direction.

The one-window system is also a good idea. Increasing the affordable housing component by the additional 35%, which it will now be geared to—35% non-profit plus 35% affordable market housing—I think is a very positive direction.

But I must tell you that I do have a problem with a number of the things the government is doing, because its actions just don't match its words.

On page 6 of this document, it lists the policy objectives. Number 7 is, "Support the important role of the private sector in the housing market by encouraging measures that assist the financing of private sector housing and provide efficient planning processes." This is a joke. The private sector in Ontario has learned not to trust this government. They negotiated in good faith over the Rent Control Act and found that they were stabbed in the back. There has been no partnership with the private sector. There wasn't before, and believe me, because there is no trust there, there will not be in future. So you may say these nice words, but the private sector is not going to be interested in doing a whole lot of work with you.

The second is, "Recognize and support the important and interrelated roles of municipalities, the not-for-profit sector and private housing sector in creating a wide range of types and tenures of affordable housing in Ontario." Again, the actions don't match the words. Look at the accessory apartment, the basement apartment issue. That's an issue where the principles and the intentions are good intentions but they went severely amok, because the municipalities were not involved in meaningful consultation. Their ideas were not accepted, Madam Minister. You can shake your head, whatever you want, but municipalities are saying that they have not been involved. This is a made

in Queen's Park policy and you have not consulted with the municipalities as to the effect.

Number 9, "Prevent the deterioration of the existing buildings and explore opportunities to create new homes from these buildings, since they are the greatest source of affordable housing." This is nothing less than a mockery. This is a picture, which members probably can't see, but it shows the state of our social housing in Ontario. The Ontario Housing Corp and the MTHA are crying out for money to help them shore up their existing buildings and they are not getting it. So to talk about deterioration of existing buildings when you don't practice what you preach is not going to be terribly helpful, because people are not going to trust you. We want to know how you're going to deal with this. I look forward to looking to the other 41 pages and hope they'll give us some of the answers in this regard.

One final point. They mentioned that Jobs Ontario Homes will produce another 20,000 homes in Ontario and 34,000 jobs over the next three years. At the time the budget came out, we said you would not be producing one job through Jobs Ontario Homes this year, and that in fact is true. Your own ministry officials confirmed it in Housing estimates and now you're talking about hopefully having some allocations next year. There will not be construction jobs coming out of the Jobs Ontario Homes program this year and they won't even come out this fiscal year, because by the time those are being built, we are into the next fiscal year. One more case of smoke and mirrors from this government that doesn't put its principles where its mouth is.

The Speaker: Responses, third party, the member for Mississauga South.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I want to stand in this House this afternoon in response to the Minister of Housing's statement and congratulate her. The reason I want to congratulate her is that obviously she's the first cabinet member of this government to recognize that the Progressive Conservatives have the answer to the problems of this province. The fact that her press release is called *New Directions for Non-Profit Housing* is something that we over in the Progressive Conservative caucus of course welcome. If the other members of your cabinet would like to see the other answers to the problems in this province under our *New Directions* booklet, they're more than welcome. You don't even have to phone the 1-800 number; we will personally deliver them to you.

This is another typical Bob Rae government announcement. It is absolutely nothing to do with solving a very serious problem, that of affordable housing in this province. How many times do we have to say, over and over again, that announcements don't do it? Reinventing the statements that have been made in their number of throne speeches through further announcements in this House do not create one single more affordable unit.

I think it's very unfortunate for the public of this province to have to listen to these kinds of statements. I guess the best part is that for the most part, the general public doesn't hear these statements. They don't have to put up

with what we have to put up with, which is a Minister of Housing standing in the House reading a statement that essentially doesn't mean anything.

1400

The fact is that this minister is refusing to have a meeting with someone in this province who may just happen to have a solution for affordable housing. I'm not talking about somebody who wants to create a basement apartment or an accessory apartment, because we've already said very clearly that this is not our solution for affordable housing. I personally do not believe that the solution for affordable housing in Ontario is a view from a basement window.

There is an organization called Toronto Habitat for Humanity Inc. This group is made up totally of volunteers. At no cost to the taxpayer, they have already created one house in Toronto. They have many worthwhile solutions that they would like to convey to this Minister of Housing. I would like to tell you that the chairperson of their board of directors is a Mr Bob Simpson, CPP. I'd like to also tell you that Mr Simpson is a senior purchasing officer with the supply and services branch of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

This person cannot get a meeting with this minister to help resolve a problem of housing in this province. How disgusting that is when here is a group of volunteers who simply say, "We have a solution; we're not asking for any government funds; we're simply asking for a meeting with the Housing minister," and she's not willing to listen to this group of people with their constructive ideas. However, this same minister is more than willing to hand out government funds to a whole group of individuals and organizations in this province, to which, as she announced on October 14, they are giving \$3.7 million in grants. I notice some very interesting organizations on this list.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Name names.

Mrs Marland: Well, how about the CAW community development group—\$60,000—and a whole list, particularly of tenant organizations. I think if you're going to give money to tenants, you are misleading those tenants because tenants cannot create houses with this kind of funding.

We're back to the old argument about what it is that the Minister of Housing is doing. It's absolutely nothing. We have no more units and we have no solution, because she is not willing to listen to the practical advice of people who know how to solve the housing crisis in this province today, and that's the Progressive Conservative Party.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Solicitor General. The minister is well aware that other police forces across the province have indicated that they will be joining the Metro police in their job action. The Ontario Provincial Police Association has now stated that it too will join the job action if you and the Premier do not meet with the Metro police association within 72 hours. Minister, clearly you have allowed this to become a crisis situation. This is not a contest about who

can make the other side blink. Minister, I ask again, when will you show some leadership on this issue? When will you and the Premier take that first step to resolve this impasse?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): As I indicated in the House, I believe yesterday, the job action taken by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association is a matter that is properly being dealt with by the chief of police and the police services board. Their most recent action is to file for injunctive relief before the Supreme Court of Ontario, and that matter will be heard very shortly.

Mrs McLeod: Minister, while we have said in the past that we do not condone the job action, and clearly we do not, it is nevertheless something that concerns us and all members of the public very deeply. It is because of our concern that we find it absolutely incomprehensible that you would provide that kind of answer as this crisis reaches greater and greater proportions. We find it incomprehensible that you and the Premier have chosen to simply sit on the sidelines.

I recall the Premier, who was then opposition leader, in 1987 making comments during a job action that was undertaken by workers at McDonnell Douglas. At the time, Bob Rae expressed disbelief that workers would have to undertake that kind of job action simply in order to be heard. I also recall that the minister met with Bob White before the workers had ended their job action. Minister, why will your government not give the same kind of consideration to the police that it gives to other groups?

Hon Mr Pilkey: The Premier's position, and quite properly so, on this matter has been that he was quite prepared to meet with any police stakeholders or associations prior to this illegal job action, and he is quite prepared to meet with police associations, chiefs of police or anybody from those particular associations after the cessation of this illegal job action.

I, as well, have indicated for approximately the last two weeks that my door is open to meet with police stakeholder groups if they wish to do so, and as a matter of fact, last week the Ontario Provincial Police Association did just that. As a matter of fact, just on another update, as was mentioned last evening, the Premier addressed the Ontario Provincial Police Association at Midland, Ontario, and he conveyed some very heartfelt thoughts to it. He indicated very directly and fairly his position, and indicated that he was willing to meet with them and all others commensurate with the cessation of the improper job action.

Mrs McLeod: I wonder why on an issue of this seriousness the minister keeps trying to give us responses which clearly haven't served the purpose. We know that he met with the Ontario Provincial Police. What we're saying is that the Ontario Provincial Police are now saying that they will join the job action unless he and the Premier meet with the Metro police association to hear its concerns within the next 72 hours. That's the result of the minister's meeting with the Ontario Provincial Police.

I don't understand why the government has decided that this is the place on which it will stand so firmly on this issue. The Deputy Premier recently asked for examples of

a government agreeing to a meeting while work action was continuing, so let me give him one example of his government taking a different position on a different issue.

The minister will probably recall 1991, during what we would describe as a job action by provincial truckers protesting taxes and federal regulations, and both the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Transportation met with representatives of the truckers to discuss their grievances.

Minister, I would just ask in all seriousness, why are you turning this issue into a standoff instead of acting in the public interest?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I'd like to indicate in response to the member opposite that my ministry has met with the police stakeholder groups, that's the Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Association of Ontario and the police services boards of Ontario on an ongoing basis, and they were a part of the consultation group that was called upon during the development of these particular regulations. Therefore, there is no exclusion or no reason to attempt not to meet.

The recent stance by the Premier, which I believe to be correct, because this is an illegal act against the Police Services Act, is that he will continue to meet with them at the cessation of this matter.

In the meantime, my door, as usual—and as has been the case in the past and will be into the future—is open to them. As a matter of fact, the issue was raised at the OPPA in Midland last night. It was the same association which just last week took a full-page ad out in the *Toronto Sun* explaining how very terribly, terribly concerned it was at the level of emotion that had been raised with this particular issue and citing the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association for a wide variety of activities that it deems to be absolutely inappropriate.

I can see by your signalling, Mr Speaker, that I don't have time to read them out, but they are quite dramatic.

1410

REPORT ON VICTIMS OF ABUSE

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): In the absence of the Attorney General, I'll direct my second question to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Today we learned that the Attorney General has taken steps on behalf of the government to stop the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner from releasing the 1976 report of abuse at the Grandview reform school for girls. I would ask the minister if she will tell us why her government is taking this rather unprecedented action to suppress this information from the victims and from the public.

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues): I was not aware of this incident. I cannot answer the question and will have to defer it until the Attorney General is in the House.

Mrs McLeod: I confess that I'm completely taken by surprise that the Minister of Community and Social Services is not aware of the seriousness of this issue, which has received debate and unanimous support of a resolution

from a member of this House just this morning and an issue which has been fully reported in the newspapers.

I will pursue the question because it's one that we simply must raise. According to the archives, the 1976 report that's in question provides detailed documentation of emotional and physical behaviour of employees towards wards of the school. The 1976 report, we understand, could in fact corroborate the abuse which victims allege has taken place in the Grandview school.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has just ruled that the report should be released. Your government has gone to court to prevent that report from being released. Minister, I should tell you that one of those survivors, Judi Harris, has said, "The government is definitely protecting somebody, and it certainly isn't us." Minister, I would ask you to reflect: Is she right? Is your government trying to protect somebody? If not, what possible reason could your government have for suppressing this report?

Hon Mrs Boyd: First of all, the member opposite is quite aware that I am aware of the seriousness of this. In fact, I have been a strong advocate on behalf of those who are survivors of the incidents at Grandview.

When you say that our government is blocking this, the issue is before the courts. The police are still investigating, and the whole issue of the judicial review, which I assume is what you're talking about when you talk about a blocking of the order of the commissioner, is because of that ongoing police investigation. When I first became minister we had a request from the police around any records that were still available in our ministry to ensure they had access to those to carry on the investigation, and to the best of our ability in our ministry we complied with that.

That is my understanding of the situation, that the whole issue of withholding is only while the investigation and the court cases are ongoing.

Mrs McLeod: I understand that the minister is concerned about the issue. I understand that she is concerned about the difficulties women have in coming forward with these kinds of charges. I would have been surprised had she not known about the issue. I'm reassured when she tells me she's aware of the Grandview issue. But I have to tell you I am truly appalled that her government, that any of her colleagues could take this kind of unprecedented action and not make this minister aware of the action that was being taken.

Minister, I should tell you this is not an issue in relationship to the judicial proceedings. It's not an issue in relationship to the police investigation. As you will know, originally the archives refused release of the report on the grounds that it might indeed interfere with the police investigation. The Kitchener-Waterloo Record and one other paper determined they would appeal that decision of the archives. The freedom of information commissioner has ruled in their favour on the appeal, and the commissioner has expressly said there is—if I can find the particular section of the commissioner's rulings, I would be able to draw to the minister's attention the fact that the commissioner has looked at whether the release of this report would in any way influence the police investigation.

His determination is that it would not and that therefore the report should be released to the public and to the victims. So, Minister, I submit to you that any explanation that suggests this interferes with police investigation is simply unacceptable.

Minister, I suggest—and I know you don't need reminding—that yours is a government dedicated to zero tolerance of sexual harassment; yours is a government that swears to uphold the interests of those who cannot protect themselves. I know that—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the leader complete her question, please?

Mrs McLeod: You recognize how much courage it took on the part of these women to come forward with their allegations. I will tell you that these women feel that, from the time they have raised their issue, from the time they've brought forward their charges, they have had to fight the system in order to be heard. They believe the action your government has taken is, in fact, a protective coverup. I ask you to determine what possible justification you and your government can give to these women for now withholding this information.

Hon Mrs Boyd: It is our contention that we do not want to do anything to jeopardize the criminal cases that are going on, and it is the contention—there is clearly a disagreement—on the part of our government officials that this might in fact occur.

The information was all seized by the Waterloo Regional Police. The commissioner ordered that the report not be disclosed before October 21, and there are 30 days allowed for judicial review of that decision. We have decided we need to seek judicial review because we are concerned that the release of information—and the former government opposite knows what can happen in terms of court proceedings when information is released prematurely—that we have decided to seek that review in order to ensure that the courts maintain the integrity of the charges.

It is very important that those who have been victims of abuse see the judicial system working effectively on their behalf. If these issues were released, in our opinion, before those court proceedings are done, it could jeopardize those cases.

Mrs McLeod: This is a point of information for the House. I will forward to the minister pages 9 and 10 of the commissioner's report.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Before I follow up on the first time in the history of the government of Ontario that the requests of the information commissioner has been refused, which I found astounding in the answer from the minister, I—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To whom are you directing your question?

Mr Harris: I would like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Yesterday's announcement that the OPP are set to join Metro Police in their protest against the government, against the Premier, against you, has added a new dimension to what I believe is a very unnecessary

situation. I suggest to you that this is not the time for political posturing; this is not the time for a stand-off. The losers in this stand-off or posturing or battle, if you like, will ultimately be the public.

Recognizing the seriousness of the potential consequences of expanded job action, I ask you and your government to show some goodwill and finally meet, simply meet, with the police, before the situation escalates to the point where it could very easily get out of control. Will you do that?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): First of all, I'm pleased to indicate to the member opposite that in a discussion with the president of the Ontario Provincial Police Association, Grant Scharf, last evening, he indicated to me that any action taken by the association would not be of an illegal nature.

Secondly, as I'd indicated in previous responses, we have ongoing and regular meetings with the associations. My door presently is open to any discussions with respect to this matter, if it will be helpful.

Finally, the Premier is available as well, once the job action has been put on hold or removed.

1420

I think that's only appropriate. To ask the Premier to meet in the midst of an illegal job action is not appropriate and is not a fair kind of approach to be taken. But if that impediment is removed or that kind of conciliation is brought forward, he has indicated publicly to everyone, including the association last night in Midland, that he is quite willing, ready and anxious to meet with all associations and any chiefs of police who may feel it is appropriate to do so.

I think that's very fair and reasonable, and if others will depart from the position of this illegal action, I think we can get this matter resolved.

Mr Harris: Mr Solicitor General, to have the Premier of this province say he will not be the one to blink in this battle of wills I find incredible. The public needs a Premier who is willing to show leadership, who's willing to find consensus, who's willing to unite, not divide.

Mr Solicitor General, we're not talking about a job action requesting that you reverse something, that you take an action. We're faced with a job action asking to meet. Normally when there is a job action it is through meeting that it is resolved, and this simple request is for a meeting. That's all they're asking, and now we have a Premier who believes his own pride is more important than the public's interest to simply agree to meet.

You as Solicitor General, your government, your Premier, you have the power to solve this situation. You have the power to end the tensions. How long is this game of chicken going to last before members of this society, this province, the police, can simply have a meeting with their Premier?

Hon Mr Pilkey: As I indicated earlier, this job action is being dealt with by Chief McCormack and the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board, and that's properly where this matter should be dealt with.

It is not reasonable for people to demand a meeting with the Premier given they have placed a circumstance into an illegal job action. I think it's quite reasonable indeed for the Premier to indicate his absolute willingness to meet with any and all stakeholder groups at the cessation of that job action. As I have indicated, on an interim basis, if my offices can be of assistance with bringing this matter to a conclusion, my door is open to do so.

I think it's interesting to note that there have been claims, not by myself but by such associations as the Ontario Provincial Police Association, that this matter is at a very emotional and highly charged level. Even they felt they were being manoeuvred in this process by other police associations and, as I said, issued a bulletin that was quite stinging in its condemnation of the way they were being treated and the way other associations were handling this particular issue. It seems, however, they themselves have been caught up in this emotion as a result of the actions last evening.

I repeat, however, that the calm voices of reason are in fact ready to meet. The Premier is ready to meet. It will simply require them either to settle their circumstance with Chief McCormack or stop illegal job action and come forward to the province.

Mr Harris: I want to remind the Solicitor General that the job action is not against Chief McCormack. The job action is against you, the Premier of this province, the government.

This protest, as well, is not just about the use-of-force regulations. That is not at all what this job action is simply about. It's about the total lack of priority your government has given to our police officers.

I think it's very sad indeed when this attitude has led to a point where our police forces feel they have to issue an ultimatum to the Premier of this province and to the top cop of this province just to be able to meet with them.

Solicitor General, given that all they're asking for is a meeting, that it is through meeting that we want to resolve conflicts, not job action, not any other dispute resolution mechanism, I would ask you to reconsider and ask your Premier to reconsider his position, and I would ask you to relay to all of Ontario, including the police, the incredulous situation—

The Speaker: Would the leader complete his question, please.

Mr Harris: —to give any sense of believability, that if Bob White were involved in a wildcat strike he would have to cease that wildcat strike before his phone would be answered by the Premier of this province. Tell me that with believability and credibility.

Hon Allan Pilkey: In response, I find it quite strange indeed that the leader of the third party would raise that kind of comment when he knows full well that at any time, outside of an illegal job action, our Premier would be prepared to meet with one and all. He knows that. I think that's a totally reasoned situation, notwithstanding the fact that this matter—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon Mr Pilkey: This job action, as I say, is by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association. The management in this particular dispute is the Metropolitan Toronto police board and its chief, Chief McCormack. The actions by the management are being properly taken and addressed with respect to this issue. But notwithstanding that, as I've indicated, my door is open and the door of the Premier is open to them upon the cessation of the illegal work action.

I found it interesting as well, though, in the Student Safe School Task Force held in North York to see students raising the question, "How do you expect students to obey the rules of their principals and teachers when authority figures like the police...don't obey the instructions of the police chief?" That was asked by a grade 12 student.

Mr Harris: That's right, that's the problem. That's the net result because you won't meet. Is that what you want? Is the idea to destroy the police, to destroy credibility, to destroy the dreams of youth? That's the net result because you won't meet.

1430

The Speaker: Order. Would the leader come to order, please.

Hon Mr Pilkey: I think this speaks to the fundamental question that has arisen in terms of people doing the proper thing in the proper way and in the proper order. I'm suggesting that if the proper steps are taken by the association, through the chief and the police services board, and once the proper steps are undertaken to remove this illegal action, then, properly, the Premier will in fact meet with these and other people.

The Speaker : New question, the member for Simcoe West.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): That's an incredible answer from a minister whose party leader used to chain himself to trees on Red Squirrel Road.

The Speaker: To whom is your question directed?

Mr Jim Wilson: And he won't even meet with police officers.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. The procedure we follow is that the member who is recognized will identify the minister to whom he wishes to direct a question and then in fact place the question.

HEALTH CARDS

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): My question is to the Minister of Health. Minister, two months ago you said that you did not believe that thousands of health care cards were unaccounted for. On Tuesday of this week, you admitted that OHIP could not account for approximately 400,000 health cards and that the Health ministry had issued close to 12 million health cards in total.

Minister, either you were not being entirely frank in August or you have no idea what is occurring in your ministry. I asked you this question yesterday, and I'll ask it again today. Exactly when were you made aware that hundreds of thousands of health cards could not be accounted for, and what precisely did you do about it?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I don't recall the statement that's being attributed to me in August. The member might be able to clarify the circumstances. I know this issue has come up a number of times, in which I have said that I believe actions are being taken to curtail the problem. I may at times have indicated that I didn't think it was as large as what was being suggested. In the past, what was being suggested to me was that there were millions of excess numbers and that the problem was just as bad as it was under the old OHIP number situation, but that's quibbling.

In answer to the member's question, first of all, when I came into the portfolio and we became aware of the problems with respect to the backlog in registrations, we had to, on two occasions, extend the date for the end of the health card registration project. I remind people this was one that had been under way for over a year or more before we even came into government. It was a very lengthy project to convert all of the OHIP numbers into health cards.

During that period of time when we were looking at what was happening with respect to the cards being issued, I asked questions about what kind of procedure was in place around verification, around getting assurance that we were not going to have a problem down the road. I was informed at that point in time, and that would have been before July of last summer, and I can't tell you exactly at which meeting—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the minister complete her response, please.

Hon Ms Lankin: Mr Speaker, I understand and I know that I do give lengthy responses, but the kind of allegations that I think are implied in the question need to be responded to. I'll try very quickly to say that before the summer of last year, I became aware that the decision originally taken around the program was not to put in place a verification procedure upon application and that this would have to be done after distribution. I asked at that point in time to get some assurances about what those plans were. The initial review of those plans indicated to me that we needed more work to be done. I instructed that to happen, and progressively more measures have been put in place over the course of last summer.

Mr Jim Wilson: Minister, you continue to speak about the so-called verification mechanisms that you've put in place. Yesterday, I told you how a group of four Iranian citizens could rip off our health care system with fraudulent health cards. Minister, you should be aware that the woman who brought this matter to my attention contacted the office of Patricia Malcolmson, your assistant deputy minister for corporate management and support, on September 11, 1992. She was told that someone would call her back, and over a month later she's still waiting for that call back.

A woman from Peterborough who has left two messages in your office called yesterday to tell me that when she visited Trinidad last year, several citizens of Trinidad were boasting about their Ontario health cards and the superb health care treatment they receive in this province.

The Health ministry has issued about 1.5 million more health cards than Ontario's population.

The Speaker: Could the member place his question, please.

Mr Jim Wilson: Minister, given that anyone in possession of a health card can access health care services in this province with no questions asked, what is your estimate of the total amount of taxpayers' dollars lost because of your inability to get a handle on this crisis?

Hon Ms Lankin: If I could start with some of the comments the member made, again, I want him to be clear on the numbers he's talking about. I know that when you get something that gets a few headlines and you get it rolling in this place, you're going to continue with it each day. I know we're talking about the grab for the 30-second clip, rather than trying to deal with a real, serious issue.

I would say to the member that yesterday we took immediate action to try and follow up on the issue he raised in the House with respect to the allegation of four Iranian citizens who travelled to Ontario to receive health services and illegally use a card.

We called his office. We asked questions specifically around who the individual woman had contacted within the ministry. His office, at that point in time, declined to give us any further information, I suppose so that we could keep it for the question for today. If you think the issue is so serious, cooperate with us in trying to get results.

There are a number of measures I have detailed with respect to what we have put in place in trying to verify the appropriate use of funds.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): It's Jim's fault. Jim should resign.

Interjections: Resign.

The Speaker: I have heard that phrase before once or twice. I would ask that members restore some calm.

Indeed, if it would be of assistance to any minister who feels that she or he has a detailed answer, detailed answers can be put on the order paper. I would ask the member to ask his brief final supplementary.

Mr Jim Wilson: I'll try to be brief. In regard to the allegations made by the minister, I suggest you check your fax machine. I faxed it to you this morning, all the information you requested. I rather anticipated her answer, Mr Speaker.

Minister, it's a sad indictment of your ability as an NDP minister when you have to look to the opposition party for solutions to your mismanagement of your ministry. You have said that the ministry has cancelled 1.2 million health card numbers which belong to dead people, are duplicates or are considered fraudulent. However, these cards are still in circulation and could be used by individuals who are simply hopping to different physicians.

Minister, have you ordered doctors to return fraudulent cards to the ministry? Have you set up a telephone hotline so that doctors who suspect fraud can verify the card number? Have you requested that doctors require two valid pieces

of identification and that patients sign for the health services they have received? Have you requested that estates send back the cards of deceased persons?

Minister, have you implemented any of these measures to protect the taxpayers of Ontario?

Hon Ms Lankin: In terms of protecting the taxpayers of Ontario, in terms of better management of the health care system, I feel proud of the record of my accomplishments in that respect.

In the list of suggestions the member made or in the questions he asked in terms of what things we have done and what things we haven't done, in fact some of those things are either implemented or we are currently working on them. For example, I have suggested in answers to his questions and to the media that we are working on interactive technology with doctors to be able to do the very kind of verification in the doctor's office that he's talking about.

Those things don't happen overnight. There aren't computers in all doctors' offices. We're moving to try and get to that point, and I think we'll be able to respond in a number of these areas. The idea of signing for health services is one that I think has some merit. We've talked about maybe moving to both an expiry date and a birth date embossed on the card, something like a credit card, where there could be a signature put in place. Again, that takes the cooperation of the medical profession. We've had some discussions and we're moving in that direction.

There's one thing I do want to say to the member very directly in terms of lowering the rhetoric around this issue and trying to deal with the substance of it. I'd ask him to really carefully examine how he places this question and how he placed his allegations. He suggests that this is mismanagement by an NDP government. Let me take him back to the time when there were 25 million OHIP numbers in this province under the Tory government. It took the Liberals to start to clean it up, this government—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the minister take her seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. We did have a heating problem before. We don't have any lack of heat in this chamber now. Next question, the Leader of the Opposition.

1440

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY AGENCY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Minister of Labour. Minister, once again I want to raise the issue of mass resignations from the Workplace Health and Safety Agency. You recognize, as we do, that the agency was created to permit labour and employer groups to have equal input into programs designed to cut down deaths and injuries in Ontario workplaces, but in the situation which resulted in these resignations, management representatives were not given time to comment on the key proposal for workplace health and safety training. In fact, the first time they met to discuss the specific proposal, they were told they had to vote on it that very same day.

Minister, how do you defend your actions, enforcing a vote that stripped management representatives of their right to even comment on the major issue you appointed them to deal with?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Once again, the leader of the official opposition should get her facts straight. I didn't force them to vote on it whatsoever. There was a motion moved by one of the management members, seconded by another management member, to vote on the package, the certification training process, which is now five months behind time. I think it's important that we get that on stream. It's necessary in terms of the health and safety of workers in the workplace, and I find it difficult to understand how the member would suggest that we can let them go on talking for ever without a decision.

Mrs McLeod: It would seem that the minister is not debating the issue of whether or not management representatives on the agency were given adequate time to review or to discuss the training proposal. Clearly they were not.

The minister again today responds to the question of whether or not there was interference. I took time to review his comments in Hansard yesterday, in which the minister says, "There has never been any interference or authority exercised," and in which he says, "I reject her charge that we deliberately intervened."

The assistant deputy minister told the members of the agency that there was a strict deadline for passage of this proposal and that they could not make changes or modifications to it. That is clearly intervention, that is clearly interference.

I would ask the minister, in light of the fact that the resignation of these members leaves the future of the Workplace Health and Safety Agency very much in question, how will he now go forward with the training proposal, given the fact that the bipartite nature of this agency has now completely collapsed?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I would hope it doesn't make the leader of the official opposition happy that there are problems in a bipartite approach. I don't think it's collapsed at all. I think it's going to continue. I think there will be additional appointments to the board, and I think it will put in place, now that it has voted on it, a three-level training program, which is long overdue and which may help us reduce some of the accidents and deaths in the workplace in Ontario.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This question's for the Minister of the Environment. Saving taxpayers' dollars has to be one of the major priorities of government. Government spending has to balance all options to find a cost-effective solution. Rail haul could save the province and Metropolitan Toronto millions of dollars, yet you, the minister, and Premier Rae continue to overlook the possibility of rail haul and its cost benefits.

You ignore the jobs it can produce in the north. You ignore the cost of having to place landfill sites in York, Durham and Peel, the most expensive land around Toronto. You ignore the importance of looking at all the alternatives,

as would be possible under the Environmental Assessment Act.

My point today is that you're ignoring the huge cost of building a megadump. How can you save taxpayers' dollars? Therefore, how can you justify your deliberate refusal to allow a cost-effective waste solution to be examined, such as rail haul?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I disagree with the member that hauling waste from the greater Toronto area to northern Ontario—particularly, I suspect, to his preferred location in northern Ontario which is an abandoned mine half full of water—is either cost-effective or good for the environment. I suspect that the member's question arises from a report in today's press that the taxpayers in Metro would save a great deal of money if their waste was hauled to northern Ontario. I have asked my staff to get a copy of the study upon which that allegation was based.

I want to say to the member that just last week a citizen's group in Durham, for example, made a submission to the region of Durham that said that if GTA waste was hauled to northern Ontario, it would cost the Durham taxpayers over \$1 billion over time.

So there are assumptions, there are calculations, there is no agreement, but the bottom line for me is that what's best for the environment is for the GTA waste to be managed within the GTA.

Mr Cousens: It sure isn't answer period when you call it question period, because I asked a question and the minister has yet to really answer the question. It is totally infuriating when you come along and say, "Oh, you're just looking at one site up there." I'm saying that rail haul anywhere in the province can be an option for the government to look at, and you won't look at it. I'll tell you, it's stupid, stupid in the extreme. It has economic advantages and this government refuses to look at anything except what this minister or Bob Rae has decided upon.

I ask again a very fundamental cost question. People are now going to be forced to pay an awful lot more for their garbage because you're choosing only the greater Toronto area. You fail totally to provide—

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Listen to the north; they don't want the garbage.

Interjections.

Mr Cousens: I wish you guys would go and take a powder or eat another fish or go and do something with your time. Go and ask a question—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Would the member take his seat please.

Mr Cousens: Well, they're upset.

The Speaker: It appears to be mutual. I would invite the member to direct his question to the Chair and I would ask the members on the government side to exercise some restraint. Would the member please place his question.

Mr Cousens: This Minister of the Environment has failed to provide Metro and local municipalities with a cost analysis of the dumps and the dump selection process or

who will get the fees. So again I ask, will you be fiscally responsible and allow rail haul to be put to a full environmental assessment? I say rail haul. Don't confuse it with one site. Will you allow rail haul to be put to a full—

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): You don't know what you're talking about. You want to—

Mr Cousens: Shut him up, would you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: That is not helpful. I would ask the member for Durham West to come to order. The question has been placed and I would invite the Minister of the Environment to give a response.

Mr Cousens: I am just finishing the question. I'll read it again. Will you be fiscally responsible and allow rail haul to be put to a full environmental assessment or will you continue to waste taxpayers' money? I didn't have a change to get that in.

Hon Mrs Grier: If the question is if I will allow the greater Toronto area's garbage to be hauled by rail anywhere across the province—to Orillia, Halton, Nottawasaga, Plympton or Marmora—the answer is no.

The Speaker: New question, the member for St Catharines-Brock.

Interjections.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, you're taking up most of the time in question period.

The Speaker: You're right.

Interjections.

The Speaker: The member for St Catharines-Brock.

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): For the benefit of the member for Markham, we're happy that the Minister of the Environment is not going to be shipping garbage into St Catharines-Brock, as we look after our own—

The Speaker: To whom is your question directed?

1450

HERITAGE LEGISLATION

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Madam Minister, I have many active heritage groups in my riding that are eager to see amendments to the current Ontario Heritage Act. As the experience of cities like London has shown, the need for this change in legislation is great. Indeed, the current act does not have the authority required to prevent important heritage resources from being destroyed. As you know, in the absence of clear provincial policies and direction municipalities have set their own ground rules. Unfortunately, in many cases this has resulted in a patchwork approach to heritage preservation across the province.

I know your ministry has been actively consulting to amend the Ontario Heritage Act. Could you please advise me when—and I know the people in Niagara-on-the-Lake are really waiting with bated breath for this—we can see some strong heritage legislation tabled in this House?

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): I am well aware of the situation with the member's riding. She has spoken to me a number of times on the situation. I think there are a number of situations in many of the ridings that the new heritage legislation would assist with. I must say that I've received letters not only from my own government members but also from opposition members regarding this issue.

I would just like to inform the House that the minister's advisory group, which was chaired by my previous parliamentary assistant, has given me its report on recommendations for new heritage legislation. That report was given to me in August, and at this time the ministry staff are reviewing that with a view to bringing recommendations for new legislation.

Ms Haeck: I thank the minister, but I know she will realize that I can't impress upon her strongly enough that these legislative amendments are long overdue. In my riding, individuals such as Tom Salter, who chairs the local architectural conservation advisory committee in Niagara, has said that preservation of historic buildings and sites will follow the lead of the environmental movement and become a mainstream issue in the next while.

Right now in St Catharines there is talk of major road construction through the historic downtown core which could threaten many century-old homes and sites. This has resulted in an outcry. In fact, 1,000 residents of St Catharines are fighting to preserve the area's heritage and trees. Clearly, this groundswell of public opposition has proven that heritage preservation is becoming a priority for members of the general public.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Is there a question in that?

Ms Haeck: There is, thank you. Madam Minister, will you make a commitment that, through initiatives such as the heritage act amendments, heritage preservation will be given the priority it deserves?

Hon Mrs Haslam: The member has outlined a number of long-outstanding problems and we are all aware of various areas that have these types of problems. As I've gone out into the community, I must agree that there is a groundswell of interest out there. We're looking for legislation to address those concerns, with an ability to identify, protect, interpret and use the heritage resources in ways that benefit both the heritage and the economy, because I must remind everyone that one third of tourist locations in Ontario are heritage buildings and sites. So when I say the economy, I do mean the economy.

As you know, the government has a busy legislative agenda, and as part of my considerations of options on how to proceed I will be talking to my opposition critics about ways that we can work together to proceed in an expeditious way towards new legislation.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Minister of Labour. I think it's an appropriate question today, as our gallery is filled with young people. It's about young people and jobs.

The minister will be aware that a report that his ministry puts out came out just a few days ago, and all of us should take a good look at these numbers; it's the youth unemployment. In the rest of Canada, the number of unemployed young people dropped. In Ontario, the number of unemployed young people went up almost 25% over the same period last year.

We used to have a significantly lower unemployment rate among young people. The Minister of Labour will be aware that the unemployment rate among young people in Ontario is now 20% higher than it is in the rest of the country. Ontario is becoming a "have not" province. My question to the Minister of Labour is this: You're aware of these figures, Minister. What are you, as Minister of Labour, doing to create jobs for these young people?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I think the member across the way knows that the specific role of the Ministry of Labour is not to create the jobs for people in the province. We try to set the conditions they work under, we try to have something to do with the training programs and we try to deal with the economic circumstances that have seen Ontario, as an industrial province, hit harder than any other province in the country.

In spite of that, I think the member knows, and knows well, that we put more money into youth programs and the Ontario youth program this summer than ever before in the province's history.

Mr Phillips: It's time to get on to some action. I'll say to you as directly as I can: You proceed with Bill 40, as you're going to do next week, and it will do more to lose jobs in this province. I guarantee you that. You can't wash your hands of this. You can't say it's other ministries. It's you, Minister, who has to create the climate to ensure that we do see jobs created for our young people.

I'd say your job has been a failure. These are the numbers in September, Minister: The unemployment rate for our young people in the province of Ontario is now 20% higher than it is in the rest of the country. Who would ever have thought it? Would any of us in this Legislature think that Ontario's unemployment rate would be 20% higher among young people now than it is in the rest of the country?

I'll say again to the Minister of Labour that it is your job to create an environment where jobs are created. What hope do these young people have, what hope of programs, Minister? Will you outline specifically today what you are doing to create the climate where we will see jobs created for these young people?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I think the member across the way is wrong when he refers to Bill 40. I know that is the attack the opposition has been taking, but the intent of Bill 40, as the member should know by this time, is that we are trying to establish a climate where there is involvement of workers in the workplace as well as business. We're trying to make sure that if they desire—it's not automatic but if they desire—they have the right to organize—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Maybe that's the intent but it's not working.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: —they have the right to seek decent wages and they have the right as well to have some say in the decisions that affect them directly in the workplace. That's what the intent of Bill 40 is. We think it will help the situation in Ontario.

1500

SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): My question is for the minister responsible for disability issues, and I hope this will be one question this minister will answer. She always refers my questions.

As the PC advocate for disabled persons, I have tried to help many families whose developmentally disabled children, upon turning 21, have been cut off from the educational system. These young adults and their families urgently need community support, but sadly, support services often don't exist for adults.

For instance, there are 105 adults on the waiting list for vocational programs in Mississauga. Many more can't even get on the list, because the lists have had to be closed. There are also 68 Mississauga families waiting for respite care. I ask the minister, why is your government leaving developmentally disabled adults and their families to fend for themselves? Whatever happened to your supposed commitment to developmentally disabled persons?

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister Responsible for Disability Issues): Thank you very much for the question. I hope you can hear my answer today because I am suffering from laryngitis. I would like to tell the honourable member opposite that yes, you are right: Previous governments have not addressed this particular concern.

I'm very pleased to say that my colleagues the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Education have worked together very hard to set up an interministerial committee that is addressing these issues. There is a special role now between the two ministries to make sure that the continuum of care continues for adults with developmental disabilities. There will be a special assistant deputy minister who will take over that particular area of work. We're very, very pleased that we are moving very quickly on this particular area and there is a special working relationship now between the Minister of Education and the Minister of Community and Social Services to make sure that people do not slip between the cracks.

Mrs Marland: Mr Speaker, it's absolutely sickening to listen to this government, of any party in this province, that was full of platitudes, that it was the only party who ever cared about people. They have demonstrated absolute uncaring without any kind of commitment for people with special needs. Try to tell the people in my community, or any community in this province, who are facing the kinds of problems these parents are with developmentally disabled youngsters, that you're setting up another committee. Try to tell them that.

Many developmentally disabled adults have elderly parents who are under incredible strain caring for their children without help from vocational programs or respite care. This is the government that has \$97 million to spend

on new day care spaces while there are existing spaces in the private sector.

I would like to know why this government is making the situation worse. The government gave community living associations a 0.5% funding increase while it took away \$3 million from the vocational programs. When will this minister live up to her obligation to ensure that developmentally disabled adults and their families receive the support they desperately need, not another committee? They need help.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I realize that my voice is very soft today because of laryngitis and I apologize for that, but I want you to listen very carefully on the opposite side.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Mr Speaker, it's very difficult and I know that this concern is very real. I think I would like to answer this so that people could hear me, and I can't shout, so please bear with me.

I think the member opposite did not hear the rest of my answer, and I can understand that. Today there's been an awful lot of to-ing and fro-ing and that is difficult, but there is a special ADM in Education who is in charge of making sure that people will not fall between the cracks, who is working with the Ministry of Community and Social Services to make sure that we find the solutions that are needed.

Unfortunately, the previous government did not address these needs. They set up the program so that there was a disruption of services, so that there was this constant confusion.

I really think if you look carefully at the work the Minister of Community and Social Services is doing, what the Minister of Education is working on—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Ziemba: —that we are finding those solutions and the solutions will be there. I know that you'll be interested in hearing them as they come through.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East): My question is to the Minister of the Environment.

First of all, Madam Minister, let me thank you for not putting Toronto's garbage in Wentworth East. I appreciate that very much.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): They got you instead.

Mr Morrow: That was pretty good. Minister, as you know through our many discussions, I've been following the proposed new Highway 6 project. My constituents and I both feel this project will help the Hamilton-Wentworth region deal with population growth and provide a needed infrastructure to manage future economic activity. It would improve accessibility to the Hamilton Civic Airport, manage traffic growth in the towns in the Nanticoke area, and I could go on and on, but I would just like to know from the minister the current status of this project in her ministry.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I'm grateful that the member does not want the greater Toronto area's garbage. There may well be some quarries in his area that the members opposite would like to see used for that purpose. I disagree.

Let me say to him that in respect to his very real interest in the progress on new parts of Highway 6, I'm glad to be able to tell him that on September 3 of this year we accepted the environmental assessment submission. At that point we go into a second review period during which anyone who has previously made a written submission on the project can request an environmental hearing. That period of review ended on October 6, 1992, and I can share with the member the fact that four submissions were received. There are some outstanding concerns that have been raised in those submissions and we will do our very best to address them as soon as possible.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired. Motions? Petitions?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I have a motion, Mr Speaker, I'd like to file with you. I have a motion I'd like to file with the table under the heading of motions and I would like to read it now to you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: We don't have a provision for that in our standing orders.

Mr Elston: No, it just says that the government House leader may, and it doesn't exclude the rest of us from also introducing motions at this time.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): That's my reading of it.

The Speaker: Wait a minute. I will confer with the table. I don't believe you can present a motion.

While the word may be "may", the practice of the chamber is that only the government House leader is the person to present motions to the House.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): It doesn't say we may not, either.

Mr Elston: It's not exclusive, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: But the practice of the House has been that only the government House leader has the opportunity to present motions and so I must go by that practice that we've had.

Mr Elston: You always go by practice.

The Speaker: We're not about to change that particular practice.

MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker—not on this issue, on another matter which has concerned me somewhat. It has to do not so much—well, it does have to do with the ruling that you made the other day about not being able to intervene with respect to a matter that we think is a violation of the standing orders in conducting business in the committee.

It has to do in a sense with your decision not to intervene on behalf of the minority in the committee when we were dealing with the amendments that were deemed to have been read. I have to ask, as a matter of privilege

under standing order 21, can you advise in what way I can have my issue of privilege addressed by you and by the House in a formal manner to find out how a minority represented in a committee can ensure that in fact its privileges to be heard on amendments dealing with a particularly important bill, in this case Bill 40, are debated reasonably and at least in a manner which would allow us to know the content of the amendments themselves and the effect that they have on a bill?

I raise it in this way because, to be quite honest, we are now faced with or confronted by the prospect of going into committee of the whole concerning Bill 40, in which the bill is now reprinted with all of the amendments which were passed during the committee stage but about which we will have no time—in essence, no time—to talk about the real reason behind the movement, the deemed reading—

Interjection.

Mr Elston: It's a point of privilege. I'm asking for direction.

Mr Speaker, I'm asking you, since we will not have a chance now in committee of the whole really to address any of those motions and since we will have no chance whatsoever to address the essence of the amendments that have been brought forward by the Tories and the Liberals in relation to this bill because of the two sessional days, where is it that I can ask for a formal ruling as to how the rights and interests of the minority can be protected in this House?

I just want to remind you of how you said you were precluded from intervening in the committee orders. You advised that only upon an address from the Chair of a committee at the behest of a majority of the committee members could you look into whether or not the standing orders had indeed been violated or even from the standpoint, I take it by extrapolation, that you would be required to refuse to investigate whether or not the privileges of a member had been overruled in the committee merely because the members in minority could never get the committee Chair directed to report to you.

1510

Mr Speaker, my point of privilege is this: We have here, as members, individually and collectively, the privilege of examining each piece of legislation in a way that is set down by the rules here. That's clear. If we are unable to discuss in principle amendments which come to us—and in this case, the standing orders are clear that we have a right to know the essence of the item upon which we vote—at what forum, in which way, can the minority in this House be assured that their rights as members and representatives of their constituencies are addressed? I want you to tell me how before we get into—

The Speaker: Okay. To the member for Bruce, I understand his concern. As the member will know, the ruling that I gave the other day was based on our standing orders and on our practice. The member is absolutely correct that in a majority government situation, the committee will enjoy a majority of government members. Hence, a report, to come forward from a majority, would require some support from at least one or more of the government members.

Since that situation is based upon our standing orders, then in order to accomplish what the member wishes to accomplish, the proper committee for him to see would be the Legislative Assembly committee, which normally deals with changes to the rules, so that he could effect the kind of change which he is seeking. That's the only place, I believe, that I can properly direct him. To do otherwise would be—I don't know of any other way, but certainly in consultation with the table, if we can find some other process that would be of assistance to the member in altering our procedures, I'm more than pleased to do that and to give him information.

PETITIONS

COUNTY RESTRUCTURING

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I have a petition that says:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Minister of Municipal Affairs has seen fit to ignore the council of the township of Tiny and their plea for reconsideration of boundary line changes within the municipality; and

"Whereas the minister has stated that restructuring within the county of Simcoe will be implemented,

"Now, therefore, the taxpayers of the township of Tiny find it necessary to band together and lobby against the implementation of the restructuring of the county of Simcoe.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to refrain from passing the County of Simcoe Act until the provincial government deals with the township of Tiny in a fair and equitable manner."

That's 344 names, and I've attached my name to it.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): I have a petition signed by the residents not only of Kitchener but the residents of the city of Waterloo as well. The petition is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I will, in the interests of time, skip the whereases. It simply says to pass Bill 40, An Act to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, without further delay.

STABLE FUNDING

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I have a petition here signed by a number of farmers from the Chatham area, from the Durham area, from the Wingham area, from the Bruce area, and pretty well all over Ontario. Their main objections, in summary—for the final whereas, they're opposed to the stable funding issue and the direct mandatory affiliation to one of the farm organizations, and they are asking for a vote.

I do affix my signature to it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have two petitions here which are identical, one of 195 and another one of 54. The petition reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday business. I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and

religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families. The proposed amendment to the Retail Business Holidays Act of Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I too affix my signature to this.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): Like my colleague from Kitchener, I also have a petition:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act was last updated in 1975; and

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act should reflect the needs of today's workplace and today's workforce;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"To pass Bill 40, An Act to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, without further delay."

This petition is signed by residents of Kitchener and Elmira, and I affix my signature.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I have affixed my signature.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I have a petition from several thousand people in King township that reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly:

"Whereas the official plan of the township of King states that the township of King has traditionally been a rural municipality within the region of York, and that the township possesses a significant amount of land which has historically been and remains devoted primarily to agriculture; and

"Whereas this document also states that agriculture is an important land-based activity within the township;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We oppose the provincial government's proposal to take prime agricultural land in King township and turn it into Metro and York region's megadump."

I've signed this petition, and it is signed by several thousand people.

ABORTION

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): My petition reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, ask the government of Ontario to stop the killing of the unborn."

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): This is a petition which is obviously getting growing support in the province of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be sitting, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral elected Speaker by removing from that position the power to determine the question of whether debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them;

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I agree with this and I affix my signature to it.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): I have a petition signed by a number of people from Kitchener and Waterloo. It's addressed:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act was last updated in 1975; and

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act should reflect the needs of today's workplace and today's workforce;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"To pass Bill 40, An Act to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, without further delay."

I affix my signature to this.

LANDFILL

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I have a petition here to the Lieutenant Governor:

"We, the North York Astronomical Association, strongly object to the placing of the landfill site in King township. Our club regularly uses the property located at the 12th Concession and the 19 Side Road, with club buildings and instruments installed at this location. The activity at a dump of this size will make club operations impossible due to lighting and dust destroying visibility needed for astronomical observing and research."

That's signed by all the members of the North York Astronomical Association, and I have affixed my signature thereto.

1520

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition addressed to the Legislature of Ontario from 29 residents of not just Middlesex, but from London and the city of Windsor. They have asked that the arbitrator's report, Mr John Brant's report, be set aside because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority of those who participated in the arbitration hearings in London and Middlesex, it awards far too extensive an area of land to the city of London, it will jeopardize agricultural land, the viability of Middlesex county and it will jeopardize our rural way of life.

I have signed my name to this petition.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a petition which shows that there is a growing movement across the province.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rules changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I have signed this petition in accordance with the rules and because I heartily agree with it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here to the members of the provincial Parliament.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter—51 per year—from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

It's been signed by the Kingsmills from Beaverton, Grace Hemmingberg from Sutton West, Edna Shier from Cannington, the St Johns from Pefferlaw, as well as the Goodhands from Beaverton. I sign this as well.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a petition here.

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, oppose Bill 40 and draw attention to the following:

"We object to the government's assumption that the only good workplace is a unionized workplace.

"We believe the balance of power is already tilted in favour of labour and that further tinkering will result in fewer investment dollars being spent in Ontario, loss of jobs and revenue and an increase of tension between labour and business.

"We believe that Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession and that employers are already being challenged with existing and proposed legislation.

"We, the citizens of Ontario, did not ask for these changes.

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that Bill 40 be revoked immediately."

That's been signed by several hundred people in Kitchener-Waterloo and the rest of Waterloo North, and I affix my signature hereto.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario petitioning the legislature to "reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I've affixed my signature. It's signed by 13 citizens.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have another petition here from the Greater Toronto Home Builders Association, that's been signed by 330 men and women from 45 companies.

"Whereas independent, non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act will contribute significantly to job losses in the province; and

"Whereas the proposed amendments will cause a dramatic decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas the proposed amendments will undermine any possibility for a meaningful economic recovery in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario declare a moratorium on the proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act in the best interests of all the people of Ontario."

I affix my signature here too.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EDUCATION STATUTE LAW
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS
AYANT TRAIT À L'ÉDUCATION

On motion by Mr Cooke, on behalf of Mr Silipo, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 88, An Act to amend certain Acts relating to Education / Loi modifiant certaines lois ayant trait à l'éducation

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I wish to speak to the motion moved, on first reading.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): There is no debate on first reading.

Mr Elston: No, not on the bill, on the motion. He's moved and I want to speak on the motion.

The Speaker: It's a non-debatable motion, but we can call it. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Interjections: Carried.

Interjection: No.

The Speaker: I heard one no. All those in favour will please say "aye." All opposed will please say "nay." In my opinion, the ayes have it. I declare the motion carried.

HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LA PROTECTION ET LA PROMOTION
DE LA SANTÉ

On motion by Mr Tilson, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 89, An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection et la promotion de la santé

EILPRO HOLDINGS INCORPORATED ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Mammoliti, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr49, An Act to revive Eilpro Holdings Incorporated.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): With the indulgence of the House, we have one piece of paper which should be read. Pursuant to standing order 34(a), the member for York Mills has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Labour concerning Bill 40 hearings. This matter will be debated today at 6 pm.

Orders of the day.

1530

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): The fifth order.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller): Fifth order, committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Chair, I would like to give notice to the committee of the whole House of a motion that I intend to introduce with respect to business which is on the order paper to be conducted at some future date in the committee of the whole House not yet to be named.

I wish to give notice by reading this to you so that when the issue is raised by way of introduction of the business to be conducted in the committee of the whole House, you will be aware of this motion, in order for us to consider whether or not we can fully move through the business of the day. While I will read this for you, I will make sure that copies are provided to you as Chair of the committee of the whole House, and I will provide as well a copy to my friend the government House leader and somebody, probably the House leader or his designate, with respect to the material as well.

I'm told that my microphone was not on in the beginning, but basically what I will do is read through the notice that I give you with respect to the order of business which is scheduled on the order paper for conduction here in committee of the whole House so that you will be aware of the fact that there is other business intended, at least by the private members of this House, by the minority members of this House. I will now proceed, with your blessing, to read through my motion so that you may know the context in which this point of order and this motion are to be explained to the table.

I move that Bill 40, the Labour Relations and Employment Statute Law Amendment Act, 1992, be returned to the standing committee on resources development because the committee did not debate the essence of amendments, as evidenced by the following script used by the committee Chair, which reads as follows:

"Shall section 1 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 2 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 3 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 4 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 5 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall section 6 of the bill carry?

"Shall the deferred PC amendment to section 7(2)(4) carry?

"Shall section 7 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall section 8 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall section 9 of the bill carry?

"Shall the Liberal amendment to section 10 of the bill (section 9.2 of the act) carry?

"Shall section 10 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall the government amendment to section 11 of the bill (subsection 10(3) of the act) carry?

"Shall section 11 of the bill ["as amended," if applicable] carry?

"The Liberal motion to strike out section 12 of the bill is not in order.

"The PC motion to strike out section 12 of the bill is not in order.

"Shall the PC amendment to section 12 of the bill (subsection 11.1(1.1) of the act) carry?

"Shall the PC amendment to section 12 of the bill (subsections 11.1(2) to (7) of the act) carry?

"Shall the government amendment to section 12 of the bill (subsection 11.1(2) of the act) carry?

"Shall the PC amendment to section 12 of the bill"—

The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Please take your chair.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I wasn't at the committee. I don't know what happened. I've got to hear this.

The Chair: Order, please. My responsibility is to chair the debate on Bill 40.

Mr Elston: No, it has not been called yet. It has not been called.

The Chair: Please listen to what I'm saying. My responsibility is to consider the bill as it is reported to me. There are certain things you can do. I can either report the bill as amended, I can report the bill without amendment or the bill will not be reported at all. Unless the House gives me different direction, I have no alternative other than to go ahead with this debate.

Hon David S. Cooke: If I might, could the Speaker indicate to me which order we are on right now?

The Chair: I think you all observed that I came to the table. I took over the responsibility from the Speaker. Normally, the procedure is for me to call orders of the day. Prior to my saying this the member for Bruce stood up, and as any Speaker would do, I had to listen to what Mr Elston had to say. I listened attentively to what he had to say and I reported that my responsibility at this instance is to consider the bill, whatever bill is to be introduced.

You have the floor and please—

Hon Mr Cooke: I would ask that we deal with Bill 40, which is the order of the day.

The Chair: So be it.

LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS
EN CE QUI A TRAIT AUX RELATIONS
DE TRAVAIL ET À L'EMPLOI

Consideration of Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui a trait à la négociation collective et à l'emploi.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): In discussions we have had with the opposition House leaders, I'd ask that the time be divided equally this afternoon and that any divisions on amendments that take place be stacked until the end of the second day in committee of the whole House on Bill 40.

The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Before we start, please pay attention to what I'm about to read:

"That two sessional days shall be allotted to further consideration of the bill in the committee of the whole House. All amendments proposed to be moved to the bill shall be filed with the Clerk of the assembly by 4 pm on the last sessional day on which the bill is considered in the committee of the whole House. Any divisions required during clause-by-clause consideration of the bill in the committee of the whole House shall be deferred until 5:45 pm on the last sessional day that the bill is to be considered in the committee of the whole House. At 5:45 pm on that sessional day, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto and report the bill to the House. Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put, the members called in once and all deferred divisions taken in succession."

I hope everybody understands that the time is to be split equally among the three parties.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): A point of clarification on that, Mr Chair: I have in my hand the motions, the PC, Liberal and government amendments, that are here. If we are in agreement to split the time equally, then I'm assuming that each member in each caucus could speak to any or all of the amendments that are tabled as opposed to going through one at a time. Is that agreeable to the PCs?

The Chair: If the committee agrees to that, sure, we will agree: 45 minutes for each party and then of course the debate will continue the next day, which is Tuesday of next week.

Are there any questions, comments or amendments and, if so, to which sections of the bill?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): You're the guys who moved these—

The Chair: Order, please.

1540

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Chair, we would like to give notice that the sections to be amended are the

same ones we filed in committee. Although I haven't been consulting with all the Conservatives and since they haven't indicated, I presume that they likewise are filing amendments that were not dealt with in committee, so that all those sections will again be the subject matter of discussion and filing of amendments.

Mr Stockwell: That's okay, yes.

The Chair: The member for Bruce, do you wish to start the debate, or the member for Mississauga East?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd just like to request that the ministry staff be entitled to sit at the—

The Chair: Yes, of course.

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I would like to speak on the preamble of the bill and I would like to ask, what is the reason the NDP government is upset with the preamble as it now is stated in the present legislation?

I find it difficult that in this horrific economic climate, with plants closing daily, people losing jobs by the hundreds, the NDP can find the following to be offensive—this is the preamble in the existing law—"Whereas it is in the public interest of the province of Ontario to further harmonious relations"—and I underline "harmonious"—"between employers and employees by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining between employers and trade unions as the freely designated representatives of employees."

When you read that, the present legislation wants harmonious relationships between employers and employees and between the representatives of employers and the representatives of employees. Yet this government finds these words somehow not to be in tune with what it wants to achieve. They want to replace the preamble with a purpose clause. I just want to read the first objective of the purpose clause, "To ensure that workers can freely exercise the right to organize by facilitating the right of employees to choose, join and be represented by a trade union of their choice and to participate in the lawful activities of the trade union."

They're got four other points in the purpose clause, but this first one seems to be a little bit at odds with some of the correspondence I have been receiving. For instance, I have a letter from the Ontario Nurses' Association, a union with 55,000 members, which wants to be recognized or accredited by Bill 40. I want to read a couple of excerpts from the letter written to me on October 7 and signed by Mrs Sheila Richardson, who is responsible for the area I represent for the Ontario Nurses' Association.

"On September 25th, ONA met with the Ministry of Labour to discuss our concerns and the need to be recognized as having 'craft bargaining status.' At this time the government very obviously passed the buck and suggested that ONA should meet with the Ontario Federation of Labour and if they agreed with our proposed amendment, then the government would put it forward."

If I read the purpose clause again, it says, "To ensure that workers can freely exercise the right to organize." The Ontario Nurses' Association wants to exercise this right that the purpose clause is supposed to give it, and yet what

happens? The government tells the Ontario Nurses' Association that it has to get the agreement of another labour body. If that labour body agreed with it, then the government would agree with it. Is that freedom of choice as explained in this first objective of the purpose clause?

I would like to quote further from Mrs Richardson's letter. She says:

"It is my opinion the government is shirking its responsibility in making the decision and trying to place the responsibility for it on the OFL. Let me ask you this: Was it the OFL touring the province and accepting submissions with the proposed amendments to Bill 40 or was it the government?"

If it was the OFL, then the OFL has the right to decide whether the Ontario Nurses' Association should or should not be accredited under Bill 40, but if it was the government, it has no right to slough this decision off on to the OFL.

She goes on further to state:

"I would like to know why ONA's proposal is contingent on OFL agreement. Is it a requirement that the ONA join the ranks of the OFL in order to have a voice that is listened to? If this is the case, it seems clearly discriminatory to me and against basic human rights." These are the words of Mrs Sheila Richardson.

I'm asking again, if the purpose clause is there to allow workers to freely exercise the right to organize, why is this purpose clause excluding the right of the Ontario Nurses' Association to organize under Bill 40?

I would like to go on further and say that Bill 40 has raised a storm of controversy in the business community—not just in the labour community but in the business community. I have met with small business groups and with labour groups throughout my riding and I have yet to meet somebody who is completely at ease with what is happening with Bill 40. If they are in favour of Bill 40, they are questioning the timing; if they are opposed to Bill 40, they are questioning what it will accomplish. I think what is important in this climate is not what I as an individual member think, what my party thinks, what the minister thinks or what the government thinks; in this economic downturn it is important that those people who invest, the investors, are heard and are listened to.

Because of the shortage of time, I would just like to quote a short piece from the Toronto Star to show how the business community feels. "Traumatized Business Psyche Puts Brake on Ontario Recovery." I think the important words are these: "It is difficult to escape the conclusion that what is happening here relates more to the Ontario psyche than it does to the Canadian, US or world economies. We have an Ontario economy in deep trauma." This is by Peter Campbell in the Toronto Star of October 11.

The First Deputy Chair (Mr Dennis Drainville): Does the minister have any response?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: It's my intention to respond later as we get a number of issues together, or we'll have very few that we'll be responding to.

The First Deputy Chair: Any discussion?

1550

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I'm pleased to join in this debate this afternoon. I think it is very important at the outset to again remind the minister and the government of some of the fundamental concerns we have with this bill, fundamental concerns around some of the principles, in particular and specifically concerns about why we are bringing this bill to the House at this time.

We know, as my colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt has pointed out on more than one occasion, that we are deep into a recession. We have asked for reports from the government as to why this legislation is needed. We've asked them for impact studies in terms of what will be the effects of this legislation. On all those counts, we have not been able to receive any particular arguments that give us any understanding as to why this bill is being presented. We also recognize that in terms of the business climate, the economic climate, in the province, we've heard again and again and again about the negative impacts that this will have in terms of job creation, in terms of the expansion of plants and equipment, and in terms of new investment that will come into this province.

We know, from the attempts by the government to alter the role of the Ontario Labour Relations Board and its attempt to change the nature of the purpose clause, that what they are looking for here is a fundamental change in the labour-management balance. Again, for what reason? From what we have seen, there is no need to make major changes, in that the climate in Ontario, by and large, over the last number of years has been a very positive one. In fact, in the latest statistics, which are published in the Ontario Economic Outlook, we see in table 27 on page 82 this statistic, which I think is very significant: person-days lost due to strikes and lockouts. In 1992 we are at the lowest that we have ever been. In 1991 it was also low.

What, then, is the purpose? What is it that we're seeking to achieve by this particular bill? Frankly, and we've said this before, it appears as though the reason for this bill has been simply to meet a promise to the union leaders.

We have argued and continue to argue that it is not just that the business community finds this bill to be bad policy—bad economic policy, bad labour policy. In terms of the workers, it is not good policy, because what it's going to mean is fewer jobs, fewer companies expanding, fewer companies coming into this province, so that in that context, there will be fewer jobs. This does not help workers.

As the member for Mississauga North has put forward in leading our discussion on this debate, what we are seeking is a balance. I would have to say that we were particularly upset that at the request of the member, who was not able to be here today for personal reasons, the government chose to insist that we begin the debate today and not wait until next week. I place that on the record because I think that in the case of the member for Mississauga North he has argued very persuasively and very effectively the reasons why there need to be fundamental and substantive changes.

We've mentioned the purpose clause. Another issue that has been of concern to us is the whole way in which certification is provided for in the government bill. We have been concerned about what the government bill will do with respect to private property and the ability to picket on private property. We have been particularly concerned around the issue of replacement workers. In all cases, it seems to us that what has happened here is that there has been an attempt by the government to alter the balance.

What we all seek in labour-management relations is an equal playing field. No one has argued that there is not an appropriate and proper place for unions. History shows us why they are needed and why they are there. But it also shows us that there are rights that the business community has. Those rights are important, and we are always seeking to balance those rights. If the worker has the right, as he or she does, to remove labour, then the business person equally has a right to ensure that his company continues to function and to operate. With the provisions that are being made here in this bill, the government is making it more difficult for the business person to operate, and that is an imbalance that we feel is fundamentally unsound.

But at the root of these changes and at the root of where many people in this province—not just business people—are seeing a concern is around the business and economic climate that this bill brings forward. What they're saying is simply this: At a time of recession, at a time of the impact from the free trade agreement, at a time when world trade patterns are changing dramatically, it makes no sense to bring in legislation such as this which will further alter that climate.

What that does is say to the business community that we're not interested in its investment, that this province is not a good place in which to invest. Surely, the message we want to send is precisely the opposite.

That's why the purpose clause, even with the cosmetic change that the government proposed in committee, does not adequately reflect what we believe should be the goal of labour legislation in this province, which is to ensure that labour and management can coexist together, that there will be investment, that there will be job creation in this province.

For those reasons, we feel profoundly that Bill 40 should not pass.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister have any response?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Not at this point in time.

The First Deputy Chair: I recognize the honourable member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: On a point of interest and not as part of the debate, I wonder if the minister would consider responding as we go rather than just letting everyone talk and then we sit through a 45-minute recital of his views on the bill. We'd like some answers and I'm sure the public would like some answers that are in context to the questions that are being put by each of the members in their short statements.

The First Deputy Chair: I have indicated to the minister that he has an opportunity to respond. If he chooses to respond, he can.

Further discussion?

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): Today we're involved in once again bringing forward our amendments to Bill 40, and once again the Ontario PC Party will be submitting 94 amendments which we hope will contribute to making changes to Bill 40 which will help to improve the workplace and which will contribute to the cooperation and the harmony that the government has indicated it's looking for.

We are putting forward the amendments today in the hope that we have been able to represent the views of all Ontarians. We've looked at the input of the professional groups, the business groups, the children's aid societies, the municipalities and the school boards, just to name a few, and we certainly do hope that the government will give very serious consideration to the amendments we are proposing.

I'd like to speak first to one of the amendments we are proposing and that is the amendment which would remove the reference to agriculture from the bill. This is subsection 4(2) of the bill.

As you know, in January the Minister of Labour established the Task Force on Agricultural Labour Relations. That task force had a mandate to advise the government on an appropriate course of action for the workers who were involved in the agricultural sector.

In June of last year the task force unanimously recommended that the extension of organizing rights to farm workers be within the framework of a separate agricultural labour relations act.

On August 27, the Minister of Labour announced that the government had accepted all of the recommendations of the task force and he asked the task force to advise the government on the specifics of an agricultural labour relations bill by early this fall. We believe that as a result of the discussions of the task force, any reference and all references to agriculture should be removed from Bill 40. We also raise this amendment to remove the reference to agriculture from the bill because we understand that at the present time the discussions of the task force are perhaps not proceeding as smoothly as they may.

1600

I'd like to remind this government that, in contrast to the reception given to the task force report, the farming community in Ontario does not welcome Bill 40. If adopted, the relevant amendments would transfer the prerogative of applying the Ontario Labour Relations Act to agriculture from the Legislature to the minister acting by regulation.

There is strong opposition from farmers in Ontario to Bill 40, and the opposition is there for two important reasons: First, Bill 40 circumvents the authority and discretion of the Ontario Legislature on a fundamental matter of labour-market policy. Application of a labour relations regime to an entire sector of the economy is not an administrative matter to be left to the best judgement of the

minister of the day. Generally, the Legislature, not the Lieutenant Governor in Council, should decide to whom statutory protection and responsibilities apply.

The second reason farmers in this province object to Bill 40 is because the amending provisions of Bill 40 signal a lack of faith in the ability of the task force to develop a workable labour relations regime for the farm workplace. The apparent mistrust undermines the process and compromises its ability to achieve consensus. So I would hope that the government would remove any reference to agriculture from the bill, not only to this subsection 4(2), but also in subsection 4(4) of the bill.

The next amendment I would like to speak to—and I'm just going to pick a few amendments, because time is not going to allow more—is subsection 7(2.4) of the bill. This amendment would add nursing to the list of professions. The other professions presently included are architecture, dentistry, engineering, land surveying and law. We are suggesting that registered and graduate nurses be added to that particular subsection.

As you know, and as I indicated yesterday, the Ontario Nurses' Association has asked to be added to the list of professions so that it can have a bargaining unit consisting solely of employees who are members of their profession. They want the right to restrict their organizing activities to members of the nursing profession. The female-dominated profession of nursing deserves to be added to this list of professions so that nursing has a guaranteed right akin to craft bargaining unit status.

The Ontario Nurses' Association has requested this inclusion because its membership is currently limited to registered and graduate nurses and it wishes to maintain that. Employers are taking the tactic before the labour relations board that non-nurses, such as social workers employed as home care case workers, should be included in nursing bargaining units, knowing full well that ONA will have to withdraw its application for certification, as its membership is restricted to registered and graduate nurses.

Nurses are looking to maintain their existing members. They are not looking to organize workers traditionally represented by other unions, such as OPSEU or CUPE.

At this point, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour why he objects to our amendment in respect to the inclusion of registered and graduate nurses.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the minister have any response?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'm going to respond briefly to the first few speakers who have been up, and then we'll try to keep rotation going; I'll try to come in after there's been a round each time.

First, why is the government proceeding with the purpose clause? That was raised, I think, by the member for Mississauga East, John Sola.

The current purpose clause says it's in the interests of the province of Ontario for workers to be able to have the right to organize, something I've been proud of for an awful lot of years, but it has done absolutely nothing in terms of the ability of workers who are excluded from the act to organize or to resolve some of the problems of involvement

that workers in the province of Ontario have wanted to involve themselves in.

With the purpose clause, which is intended to give some direction to the act, many concerns have been raised by the business community. We made amendments when the bill was introduced in an attempt to address these concerns. We heard at committee that a large number of employers were still concerned about references to "facilitating the right to organize" and "improving terms and conditions of employment." As all of you will know, further amendments have been made. Both of these references have been replaced, and business groups have acknowledged that this has had the effect of removing what business considers one of the lightning rods from the purpose clause.

A couple of members have raised the issue of the nurses. I think it's important to make it clear that Bill 40 amendments to subsection 6(4) of the act would extend the right to organize and bargain collectively to professionals who are now excluded from the act, including architects, land surveyors, dentists and lawyers. As with professional engineers, who can already organize under the act, these newly excluded professionals would have a right to a separate bargaining unit unless a majority of them decide to be included in a larger, mixed unit.

Unlike those professionals, nurses of course have had the right to organize and bargain for many years, and have done so effectively. They have sought and have been successful in obtaining separate units for nurses.

I understand that the ONA would like the right to separate units entrenched in the act, and it sees the amendment to subsection 6(4) as the vehicle to accomplish this. As I have stated, the purpose of our amendment is to extend the right to organize to currently disenfranchised groups, not to respond to concerns raised by employees who currently bargain under the act.

While the ONA raised this issue late in the process, we have been considering the ONA's concern and the policy issues it raises. Foremost among the issues we have identified so far is the precedent ONA's proposed amendment would have for other groups of professionals who, like ONA, already organize and bargain successfully under the act, including RNAs, registered medical technologists and physiotherapists.

The PC motion itself illustrates the complicated nature of the issue the ONA raises and the need for further study, which I indicated yesterday that we intend to undertake. The PC motion adds nursing to the list of professions in subsection 6(4). However, the ONA opposes that motion. It seeks addition of the phrase "registered and graduate nurses." They seem to want to exclude RNAs. I ask the PCs, what about the RNAs and what about the long list of other professionals who, like nurses, already are covered by the act? Would they too be added to the list of professions? It's an issue that needs careful study, and we intend to do that.

I think the question raised by the member for York North was, why the bill now? I doubt we'll ever get absolute agreement on this issue. It's our contention, and it's been our contention since the very beginning, that what

we're trying to do in the province of Ontario is change the direction we've taken from a confrontational approach to one that's a much more cooperative approach between business and labour.

As I've said many, many times, I get business groups coming to me and saying: "Hey, we want multiskilling. We want more flexibility. We want to be able to deal with some of the more difficult seniority issues." That's a regular question raised with me by much of the business community.

I don't think you're automatically going to resolve those, or take away what amounts to three pretty fundamental issues for workers around the province as well, unless there's a little more comfort and security on their side, in the groups that are now excluded from being able to organize, the larger number of women who are now in the workforce, some of the ethnic communities.

I think all of these issues have to be raised, and we have to decide whether we want to treat the labour group in our society as a very important part and a very valuable one of our assets. I happen to think they are, and I think that's been proved in much of the industrial world.

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I know from my own experiences that we have not used the expertise that exists on the shop and office floor anywhere near enough, when tough decisions are being made in this province, that look at the future of a plant, look at whether or not we can increase productivity, look at whether or not they shouldn't have some say in the decisions that are made that affect them when there is an idea of closing down all or part of a plant or moving it. I think we have made a mistake in not inviting and encouraging much more involvement of the workforce in Ontario.

I guess it's a question of whether there is ever a good time to make fundamental changes to basic legislation. I think this is the time that we start changing the atmosphere in Ontario.

Why are the regulation-making powers in Bill 40 being maintained? We continue to await the further report of the Task Force on Agricultural Labour Relations. The task force has asked for an extension of time and we expect to receive its further report soon.

The LRA regulation-making provisions will be dealt with in the bill that will deal with agricultural labour relations. They may be repealed in whole or maintained to a limited extent, depending on the scope of the agricultural bill.

Since we haven't yet decided the recommendations of the task force and haven't yet decided on the form of legislation that will deal with agricultural workers, we won't deal with the repeal of the LRA provisions until those matters have been considered.

I add just a brief comment on that. The Tory member is correct: We have indicated that we were prepared to listen to the concerns they've raised. They raised five or six specific concerns in their report that was issued. I want to tell you that I have no difficulty with any of them but the last one, which was the separate agency. But I have also

told the agricultural community that this is not ruled out; we are prepared to look at it as well.

We are seriously looking, as I think the members on the other side know, at the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act and the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act right now and whether there's some way we can combine some of these groups rather than having separate groups. I personally favour an exclusion. In other words, the right to arbitration and not to strike and everything they've requested could very well be in that. It still could be handled under the Labour Relations Act.

Whether or not we are going to be able to reach any agreement on that, I don't know. It may be that we have to go to a separate piece of legislation. I'm hoping we can end up with fewer, not more, pieces of legislation, as long as we can meet the requests they've raised—and we have no difficulty with the requests the committee has come up with to this point in time.

The First Deputy Chair: Further discussion?

Mrs Witmer: I move that subsections 8(2) and (3) of the act, as set out in section 8 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted:

“Representation vote

“(2) The board shall direct that a representation vote be taken if it is satisfied that at least 40 per cent of the employees in the bargaining unit are members of the trade union on the certification application date or have applied to become members on or before that date.”

It's obvious that the intent of the amendment we have introduced is to make a representation vote mandatory. This is the first in a series of amendments that are contained within the provisions of Bill 152, currently Bill 76 in Orders and Notices. That was the private member's bill I introduced—

The First Deputy Chair: If I could say something to the honourable member for Waterloo North, we are having a free-wheeling discussion at this point in time, and that's fine. I just want to make sure you understand that we haven't gotten to the point where we are actually moving this particular motion. By all means, if you want to continue with your comments, that's fine, but we haven't gotten to that point at this point.

Mrs Witmer: Yes, and unfortunately we never will get to that point, Mr Speaker. Unless I take advantage of the opportunity right now to represent the views of the people in this province, I will not have another opportunity, because of the manner in which we're discussing this particular issue.

The First Deputy Chair: I just wanted to ensure that the honourable member knew what was happening; that's all.

Mrs Witmer: This amendment is part of the private member's bill which I introduced November 7, 1991, which makes the secret ballot vote mandatory for certification, ratification of a collective agreement and the decision to strike.

Our Premier and this government asked for positive suggestions for labour law reform. Most people who responded to the request for suggestions asked that individ-

ual workers be given the right to make informed decisions and be allowed the opportunity for a secret ballot vote. We want to make sure that the individual's right to decide is free of interference or influence from any source, whether it be the employer, the employee or the union organizer. We want to make sure there's a secret ballot vote on whether or not to have union representation or to accept a contract or to go on strike.

We recognize that workers need to have the right to organize, if that is the wish of the majority. However, the process that this government puts in place must ensure that all individuals are fully informed of what is involved in joining a union and the process must ensure that each individual can express his opinion freely without intimidation from any source.

I want to tell you that the current bill is badly flawed in this regard since it does not provide for complete expression of both viewpoints—labour and management—or the safeguard of a secret ballot vote on such an important issue as joining a union. This bill must make it mandatory that the union provide all relevant information to the workers concerning its constitution, its dues, the significance of strikes, labour history etc, and management must present its arguments as well. Since the worker must make a crucial decision that will permanently affect his or her relationship with his or her employer, the worker must be well informed and this legislation, Bill 40, totally fails in this regard.

As far as the voting process is concerned, our society has long recognized a secret ballot is the only truly satisfactory way of enabling one to freely express his or her opinion. We know that individuals are subject to coercion on issues such as this and that's why the secret ballot vote is absolutely essential.

Bill 40 restricts the right to oppose unions by taking away an employee's right to revoke a membership card, after the union applied for certification, and petition against the union's application. Believe it or not, under Bill 40 a union could be certified by submitting cards signed by 55% of the employees in the union. However, there is no obligation whatsoever to even inform the other 45% of the individuals about the certification drive. Their freedom of choice, that of the other 45% of the people, has now been totally eliminated by the new proposals in Bill 40.

On an issue such as unionization an employee will have less protection than a consumer dealing with a door-to-door salesman. The consumer at least gets a three-day grace period to change his or her mind. Do you know, it's unbelievable that employees who sign a card will not have the same basic consumer rights that the rest of us take for granted in Ontario.

Given that Bill 40 now seriously infringes on the freedom of choice in joining a union, the certification process must be amended to ensure that it respects the fundamental principles of fairness, freedom of information and protection of privacy. All employees must be provided with complete and balanced information and they must have freedom of choice through a secret ballot process.

Again, I remind the government that in its request for positive suggestions and amendments to Bill 40, I think

the most commonly requested change was to give workers an opportunity for a secret ballot vote in order to allow them to make informed decisions. The proposed new certification procedure that Bill 40 introduces is so flawed it appears that the government lacks faith in ascertaining the true wishes and desires of workers.

Again, I remind the government that the reason a secret ballot vote is so important is because certification of a union dramatically changes the workplace. When a union is certified, it is granted exclusive bargaining rights and the individual workers lose any individual right to bargain with their employer. It is a critical choice that workers must make, and it should be made as democratically, as fairly and as honestly as possible. The same argument would apply in the case of ratification and strike votes.

I am surprised that this government has not exhibited faith in the collective judgement of workers. Why is this government so afraid of properly conducted secret ballots after all information has been presented? This bill that enhances trade union power must also take into account the increased potential for abuse, and must be offset by accountability to the individuals it represents.

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Therefore, I urge the government again to give serious consideration to this amendment, to support this amendment. This amendment will ensure accountability, and it will make sure that all employees are aware of what it means to join a union.

The law must be changed. It's absolutely essential that a secret ballot be held for certifications and decertifications of unions. In all other modern decision-making situations, whether it's political, investment or consumer, we always rely—this government tells us that it's extremely important that we have informed citizens who are able to make the right choices for themselves after hearing all sides of the question. As you know, we have political campaigns that try to do that, present all sides. We have advertising promotions. We have independent consumer product evaluations. We have many laws to protect the individual's right of free and informed choice in such situations, and now we need to take that and fully extend those same protections to every individual in the workplace.

The employee must have the chance to focus on the issues and hear the pros and cons of each position before making his or her choice in a secret ballot. We know that a better informed citizen almost always makes a better decision. There will then be no doubt that whatever position is taken is the freely expressed view of the people involved, and it's going to strengthen the credibility of the union that's representing the employees. No business person would then be discouraged about investing in Ontario, because he or she would know that it's a win-win situation, all the information has been put on the table and employees have truly had an opportunity to express their opinions.

You'll tell me, and you have told me, "Well, you know some unions already have votes." Yes, we know that some unions do have secret ballot votes, but it's not required. Surely, now it is time to take a look at what's happening in the rest of the world, where we depend on making sure

citizens are well informed before they make a choice. It's time to look past, "We know best; government knows best." We need to make sure that individuals have the right to make their own decisions about their own futures.

The time has come in Ontario for self-determination in the workplace. People working in this province today are informed, and they are able to think for themselves. They are able to understand the consequences of joining or not joining a union, and they need to be given the opportunity to be informed and to have a secret ballot vote.

At this time, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour why he objects. I know I ask this on behalf of thousands and thousands of individuals in this province who have written to me and said, "I would appreciate the opportunity to be well informed before I make any decision and to have a secret ballot vote." Why do you deny people their right and their freedom of choice through the secret ballot process?

The First Deputy Chair: Does the minister want to make a response at this time?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: No, I'll respond after the next speaker.

The First Deputy Chair: After the next speaker. Have you finished with your comments, the member for Waterloo North?

Mrs Witmer: For the time being.

The First Deputy Chair: For the time being. I recognize the honourable member for Chatham-Kent.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I want to focus on the amendment—

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): Mr Chair, I rise on a point of privilege: I ask the assistance of the Chair in terms of what I'm about to put before you.

Perhaps before I do it, I should put forward that my understanding of the funding process through unions from checkoff fees to the New Democratic Party is that it is done by union resolution. I understand that to be the case. If I'm correct in that regard, then I submit and ask you to look at the question of whether, under the Legislative Assembly Act—I will refer you most specifically to section 11. I won't read the entire section. Subsection 11(1) says:

"No person is ineligible as a member of the assembly," and then referring to clause (n), "by reason of being entitled to receive on terms common to all persons similarly entitled and of receiving or agreeing to receive in accordance with such entitlement any service or commodity or any refund, rebate, subsidy, loan or any other such benefit or payment that is authorized under any act."

I refer you to that. I submit that by inference the fact that it says, "No person is ineligible as a member of the assembly"—if facts those don't exist, the person is in fact ineligible as a member of the assembly.

I refer you as well, Mr Chair—

The First Deputy Chair: I ask the honourable member if he—so far you have not made a point of privilege, so very quickly summarize what you're—

Mr Callahan: Bear with me. Section 41 of the Legislative Assembly Act says:

"No member of the assembly shall knowingly accept or receive, either directly or indirectly, any fee, compensation or reward for or in respect of the drafting, advising upon, revising, promoting or opposing any bill, resolution, matter or thing submitted or intended to be submitted to the assembly or a committee thereof."

Sections 43 and 44 provide penalties for that and section 46 actually allows the Legislative Assembly and charges the Legislative Assembly with the responsibility of dealing with that matter, Mr Chairman.

The First Deputy Chair: Order. At this point I'd like to say to the honourable member two things: Firstly, in all the things he's said so far, there is not a point of privilege. The second thing is that he's actually running down his own time, so I'm not sure this is to the benefit either of the honourable member or to this House.

Mr Callahan: I'm rising, Mr Chairman, because I'm asking some direction from the Chair of the House. Perhaps, as one of my colleagues indicated, the appropriate way to do this is by reason of notice and put it in writing, which I will be happy to do so that I do not interfere with the members' rights and obligations in this House.

The First Deputy Chair: Every member has that opportunity and I'm sure the Speaker will be glad to look at that.

Mr Callahan: Fine, that's the way I will proceed, Mr Chair.

The First Deputy Chair: Thank you. The honourable member for Chatham-Kent?

Mr Hope: Thank you, Mr Chair. I'd like to speak on the member for Waterloo North's concerns about the expression of a democratic right of individuals, the freedom of choice of individuals and I want to carry it from a different perspective. I want to carry it from the workers' perspective, first of all, because we kind of blend this thing as calling unions that are coming in and unionizing workforces.

One thing I must make very clear. In 13 years involved in the labour movement and understanding the certification process, I think it's very important to understand that when we talk about certification we're talking about the individuals, the employees of that workplace who have been mistreated, or feel they have been mistreated, to ask for representation on a collective process.

When these individuals who are workers in that workplace approach an organization called a union to represent them in a collective manner representing all workers, it is the workers actually in the workplace who are the organizing driving force to inform the members about what's going on. When worker talks to worker, there is a clear understanding of what has been going on in a workplace.

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First of all, before you even get to the aspect of certification, the question that has to come up is, why do these employees want a union? Is it because maybe, perhaps, their employer has mistreated them? For heaven's sake, I'm sure they wouldn't want a union if they have a harmoni-

ous relationship in that workplace. I'm sure that's not the case. But I'm sure if over 50% of the workforce have been mistreated, whether by the supervisor who is a manager of the company or the company directly, they're upset.

We talk about the democratic rights of individuals. I truly support that. But one of the things that's always forgotten when they talk about the democratic right of the individual who may not want the union is, what about the democratic right of the individual who wants the union? Because when they go and take the challenge of trying to form a union in the workplace, I guarantee that the boss man will not be too happy.

When you're sitting there as a person who's looking for an organization to collectively represent the workers in that workplace—because they are the driving force. It's the workers who are promoting the union in that workplace; it's not the union coming in and taking over the workplace. So when you ask about the democratic rights, those individuals face a challenge. I've seen this for many years, where workers who are asking for justice in a workplace and have to ask a union for representation are being threatened, not with misinformation but with their paycheques, because a lot of employers don't like unions coming into their workplaces. They think they're bad news, because it's a concept that has been out there.

We talk about more information for the general public, the citizens of Ontario. I would agree with that, but I ask us to look back in our school system—and I was in the school system not long ago—and it tells me that we've learned very little about labour history. We've learned very little about how the programs that we have in the country and in the province of Ontario came to existence through the labour movement.

I've heard the members opposite say it's a bad time. It serves me right that in 1934 UAW Local 222 in Oshawa formed a union in the recession. Look at the prosperity that has been created in Oshawa with GM. GM has prospered from that plant, from a trade union that organized in a recession.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): In a depression.

Mr Hope: In a depression. It was probably worse than this case scenario we're in. But one of the things when we talk about is the democratic rights of individuals and holding this automatic certification where we lay both sides of the information out is, if only there was a way to protect those individuals who want the representation right there, if there was a way to protect them. But are you going to be able, through that duration of time, to have somebody who's going to be a bodyguard to that individual, to make sure he's not being coerced about his paycheque, about supporting his family, which he may have to? But you always have to go back to, why was the union being asked to come into this workplace to organize? That has to be the ultimate question, because people just don't do it for the simple fact.

We talk about how the democratic rights are nice. When we talk about how we do it in elections and we do it in other areas, we do it in elections, but you're never

threatened with your paycheque during that process. You're never threatened with your paycheque through an election process, but you are on a democratic right to have a membership or have an organization represent you.

I'm surprised they didn't bring up the dollar, because I always find the dollar very familiar. One of the tactics that I thought was by the Tory government and the federal Tories was when they went to the loonie, because it made it very difficult for us to staple the dollar to the card. We used to make sure that we did things very informatively and very organized. We always stapled the dollar on to the card and the individual wrote the serial number down. They'd give him that second option, even taking the time to write the serial number down on the dollar so they knew they were giving the dollar. We made sure they wrote the number of the certification and we used to staple it to the card. But when we went to this loonie, it made it very difficult for us to drive that staple through the loonie to put to the card. I can understand why the minister has removed this dollar being part of it.

Hon Mr Cooke: What about Krazy-Glue?

Mr Hope: We tried Krazy-Glue, but then you've eventually got to take the dollar off, and we wouldn't want to deface the money we have in the province and in the country.

When we talk about the democratic rights of individuals to choose whether to go on strike or whether to vote in favour of a collective agreement, I've never seen a more democratic process than in a trade union. I've had the opportunity of being before angry members who have had the democratic right to choose whether to accept the contract that has been put before them.

Under our constitution we always allow and we firmly believe that the membership has the directive say of what goes on. Negotiators are there representing the best interests of the workers. Most of the time, I'd say nine times out of 10, it's the workers who work in that workplace who are negotiating with the employer. So if you want to talk about democratic rights or making sure that the interests of the workers are being upheld, what better way than having workers who actually work in that workplace negotiating against the company, their employer? All they're doing is allowing a democratic right for this to happen. So when we talk about that process, there could not be a better process in place than allowing those workers to collectively negotiate with their employers.

I've heard the comment made about individuals having the individual right to negotiate with their employer. I've had the opportunity also of representing those workplaces after they've had certification and asked for a union to come in, and I've never seen such a mess; a mess where women who work right beside men are being paid \$2 to \$3 less, performing the same job right beside one another. And you want to talk about individuals' rights to negotiate wages?

When I sat there and talked to the membership and found out that a woman working right beside a man, doing the same job, putting in the same number of hours, putting out the same production was being paid \$3 less, and they

want to talk about individual collective rights to negotiate with their employers, that's the problem they get into. How are you supposed to create a harmonious relationship? Can you imagine how that woman who was working beside that individual feels, performing the same job but maybe being paid less because she was being discriminated against because of her sex? Where is the free and collective process, that individual process of negotiating with employers that I hear about from the members?

What there has to be is a collective process. The minister's emphasis on this bill is to make sure that there's a harmonious relationship. What better way of creating a harmonious relationship than to have the cooperation and collective process of negotiating on behalf of all those workers who are becoming part of the bargaining unit?

We also talk about the issue of strike. I heard throughout the five weeks of hearings and in clause-by-clause that it feels like the workers who are negotiating for workers are always strike-happy. I'll be very honest with you; most people live paycheque to paycheque. To lose a week's pay is very hard on the individual. It's not one issue they go out on strike on; they go out on strike on a number of issues because their employer has failed to collectively bargain with them. That's why they choose the strike actions. And not all the time; nine times out of 10, most collective agreements are settled without a disturbance.

When we talk about the democratic right of individuals to collectively vote, that it has to be by secret ballot, whether they want to have a secret ballot vote or not is the democratic choice of those individuals. You'll find that most workplaces always like to have a secret ballot because they never would like to coerce anybody into voting in a way he didn't wish to. We don't represent inside their family lives; we represent their collective bargaining rights. We never want to intrude on the individual's family.

So when I hear the information aspect—I've been involved in processes where I've sat in the courts for almost a year trying to certify workplaces. If they want to talk about democratic rights for individuals, then why are we going through all this hassle?

I think it's very important to understand the emphasis that is being put out there. In Chatham, Ontario, Union Gas was just sold. The unionized workplace was bought by a BC corporation. They weren't afraid; they thought it was a positive step. We had Navistar, in Chatham, hire an additional 200 employees and put in a new production line. If you want to talk about a union that has a history, that one has a strong history of representing its workers. It has less than a 40-hour workweek for its membership. Navistar took the initiative to put money in that plant and hire more employees. They knew that the union was a strong union and a union they could depend on to produce quality products and get them out the door. That's why they went that route.

When I hear the issues about the negativity, I ask the members opposite to be involved in a union certification drive. Listen to the individuals who are being intimidated with their paycheque. Talk to the single-parent mom who is out there and who works in a sweatshop talking about a decent wage so that she doesn't have to depend on social

assistance, and the employer can afford it. You want to talk to those individuals and find out how they feel.

1640

Those individuals are workers; it's not the union. They asked the union to represent their best interests like we're supposed to do here, where we're representing the interests of the people in Ontario. They do the same thing with the trade union.

The First Deputy Chair: I thank the honourable member. Would the honourable minister like to reply?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Just briefly, first off, the presentation made by the member for Chatham-Kent is one that's based on some background in and knowledge of the trade union movement. It certainly rings true with some of the things I have gone through in my own background.

I want to deal with the Tory critic's comments. I want to point out that a vote is required where there is less than 55% support. The card system is widely used across Canada and is the most effective way of testing employee support. The only provinces that have the automatic vote, as far as I am aware, are British Columbia and New Brunswick. The others don't. Mandatory votes in the United States have led to long and difficult litigation and intimidation during organizing campaigns. The government is following the lead of previous governments in maintaining an automatic certification process.

I would point out—I don't know whether the member's aware of it or not—that it was her government that put this in place 30 or 40 years ago and never changed it in all the time it was in power. Although we are maintaining the support level for automatic certification at 55%, we are maintaining the automatic support level at 55% in response to one of the business concerns.

Having said that in terms of a specific answer on the voting, let me just make a couple of comments. My background did include a lot of time with the trade union movement and it also included time as an organizer. If there was ever an issue that was driven home to me where the instructions I got were specific, it was: "Because it's difficult to get a certification in Ontario, don't get yourself caught out of hand in any misinformation or tactics that are going to give you problems."

I want to tell you that I organized a number of plants and I'm quite proud of it. I want to tell you also that it was one of the early experiences I had that drove it home to me. It was just outside the city of Windsor, in a plant where we were asked by a delegation of workers to go in and organize. Like many of the plants, the reason for it, the strongest drive for it, is something we haven't totally settled to this day: the health and safety issue.

We had in that particular plant three employees, three young women who had totally lost a hand or part of a hand as a result of improper guards on the machines in that plant. There was a level of fear in that plant. It was a marginal plant trying to get by, and the people who were paying the price were the workers in that plant.

We went to the board when we got a majority in that plant, and we ended up with a petition, as I did in a majority of the cases I took before the Ontario Labour Relations

Board. In every case in which I was involved in an organizing drive where we had a petition, we had it thrown out. It's much more difficult today to get thrown out and one of the reasons we want to do away with this certification time period.

But we had it thrown out. Why? There was not a case at that time—and it's much harder today. The litigation in the United States is an example of it; much longer cases of litigation. They have found ways to dispute or fight this particular issue, but we had every one thrown out in the plants that I organized, because we were able to prove before the labour relations board that a company foreman or the company lawyer or somebody else had initiated the petition we ended up with. We never had one where there was a charge against the union organizer or the union in cases like that.

I think it's important to realize that in terms of the health and safety issues, in terms of the concern and fear of workers that you get, that's still there in many cases. In some cases it has improved in Ontario. But your government decided this was an avenue it wanted to take. We think it's one to continue, and I'm wondering, if it's such a terrible move we're making, as you suggest in your comments, why nothing was done in some 42 years of Tory rule in Ontario.

I think the proposal we have and the elimination of the petitions does not eliminate the right of workers. If a worker truly believes he or she has been pressured or intimidated, he or she can still go, even after the date, before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

This is better legislation and stronger legislation than we've ever had before, and it's the first legislation that gives some real protection to workers, who decide themselves that they want a union, not because a union comes in and says, "You've got to be organized," but because, whether it's health and safety issues or what have you, they want to be organized.

Mr Stockwell: The minister of unemployment turning the tables.

The First Deputy Chair: Order.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I think it's a good piece of legislation and that's why we reject the suggestion you're making.

The First Deputy Chair: I'd ask the honourable members—

Interjections.

The First Deputy Chair: Order, please. First of all, I'd like to ask the honourable members to please keep order. Secondly, the honourable member for Etobicoke West, if you're going to interject, which you're not supposed to do to begin with, please take your seat.

Further discussion?

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): I would like to comment. Once again I have an opportunity to stand and comment on this legislation that is once again before us and has gone through committee and is in committee of the whole House.

I want to start off by saying, as I thought about this bill, that if I honestly believed this government's intentions were to improve the climate of labour relations in this

province, I would stand up today and say I'm all for this. But you can believe this, my friends: This will not do that in the very least. This will drive a continual wedge between management and labour.

We see the results of it. We don't even have this bill in place yet and, as I see in my notes before me, we've had almost 1,100 groups and individuals who asked to be heard before the committee. And what was this? Only 250 witnesses, or less than 25%, were allowed to appear before the committee. That's unbelievable. There's no doubt that anyone who wanted to be heard on this, something as fundamental as this legislation, which alters the relations between management and labour in this province, in this jurisdiction, for a long time to come—and let there be no mistake about this, that this legislation will not be undone so easily, never mind what my friends in the third party are saying.

Once this regime is in place and working, several years down the road when this administration will be toppled, we hope on this side, it'll be very difficult to undo the damage that this legislation will have done. That's why we stand steadfast in our position, very resolute—that's a good word to use against what we are seeing being done to Ontario today by this administration and this party. We are adamantly opposed to this legislation because of what it proposes to do to the climate of labour relations, because of the damage it will do to the economy, because we know the bill will have entirely the opposite effect of what was intended.

I would really like to stand up and commend the minister, if he's truly sincere about having a better climate of labour relations in this province, and welcome that initiative, because in the 21st century that's exactly what we're going to need. We're going to need cooperation. We need that in the 1990s, we need that in the next century. We need cooperation between labour and management. We see examples of that already taking place in the workplace. We see examples of it, and the minister knows full well that is occurring.

1650

Mr Stockwell: Where?

Mr Cordiano: Right in this very jurisdiction, under the legislation which we have in place today, prior to any changes being made by Bill 40.

There is cooperation, Minister. There is cooperation, shining examples of what can be accomplished without the kinds of proposals that are being advanced here being in place.

But the thing that concerns us most, and it sincerely concerns us, is that what you're planning to do here will not benefit anyone in the long run.

Mr Stockwell: Oh, no. The union executives.

Mr Cordiano: Well, yes, I'm sorry. My friend says "union executives." There's no doubt that unions will be allowed to organize more freely, will be allowed to increase their numbers, will be allowed to do that in an open way.

Perhaps even that wouldn't be so bad if the changes you've proposed in this legislation would not give the pre-

ponderance of power and clout on the union side with respect to issues around certification, with respect to issues around replacement workers, the concerns we've pointed out repeatedly, which I think are genuine, legitimate concerns of people who are operating the plants, factories and businesses, and entrepreneurs out there who are looking to invest their money in this jurisdiction. But we know that's going to have an adverse effect on the climate for investment. We know it's going to have an adverse effect on the very labour relations you are trying to enhance.

It creates a wedge. There's no getting around that. It will seriously create a wedge. It's done so already. It's poisoned the climate for relations between labour and management at the very time when we need greater cooperation. We've been talking about greater cooperation for the last number of years. I understand your intention here to improve labour relations, and if that's what you honestly wanted to do, I would support you in that effort, even though this bill is seriously flawed. But I don't believe your intention here, and that's why we stand here very concerned about the effects of this.

Mr Stockwell: What do you think they're trying to do?

Mr Cordiano: They're seriously going to continue to put people out of work by these changes. Yes, it does have that impact, regardless of whether you'd like to admit it or not. There are very serious implications. People who are reasonable, looking at these proposals, who sit from a distance, who look at investing money around the world, have commented on this repeatedly. There's no doubt that that's the net effect of this.

I know our critic will be making further submissions when the debate resumes. Unfortunately, he is not here with us today because of a family matter that arose. But I say to the minister, would it not have been possible to allow him the opportunity today to speak in his place? I don't think that was asking for too much and it would have been a nice courtesy to extend to our critic.

Mr Stockwell: Is he a union executive?

Mr Cordiano: Certainly not, but I think it would have been at least a gesture of goodwill, which is exactly what we're trying to foster in this province, and work with him to provide him that opportunity for him to be in the Legislature today to comment.

Unfortunately, as I said, he's not with us today and I have come to the end of my time, but I say to the minister, think hard on the proposals our very thoughtful critic has made, because some of these proposals and amendments which he has put forward are quite reasonable and would allow you to move in the direction you want to move in without continuing to foment the kind of alienation you are causing with respect to the private sector. You are definitely causing a wedge. I think the amendments we have proposed are quite reasonable. You should look at them very seriously without dismissing them on a whim.

The First Deputy Chair: Any response from the minister?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Not at this point in time.

The First Deputy Chair: Further discussion?

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I've sat through these hearings—

Interjections.

Mr Turnbull: I hear the hyenas beginning to yowl from the other side of the floor. I've sat through these hearings in the committee, and the minister has been noticeably absent.

The First Deputy Chair: Order, please. I'd just like to say to the honourable member that "hyenas" is not a parliamentary term, and I don't think we need to use that kind of language in the House.

Mr Turnbull: There's nothing unparliamentary about that.

The First Deputy Chair: In my opinion, there is, and I'd ask the honourable member not to use that kind of language.

Mr Turnbull: I think your opinion is flawed.

The First Deputy Chair: That may well be but I would ask the honourable member not to use language like that.

Mr Turnbull: Keep these people quiet, then.

The minister has been absent from hearings in this House. You may shake your head, but the fact is that we're talking about the most important debate we've had of legislation that this government has brought forward, legislation that, it has been proven, will lose for this province 295,000 jobs. The government hasn't been able to produce one shred of evidence to counter that. We believe that secretly it has had an impact study done which confirmed those numbers and it has refused to bring it forward.

We have a freedom of information request to get it, and if we ever find after this process that indeed it has been confirmed, we're going to shove it down your throat, Minister. Have no doubt about that. You have not been in the committee listening to the legitimate concerns of business, the people who provide the jobs in this province.

We know, from the study by Ernst and Young, that this is going to cost this province \$8.5 billion in investment, and where have you been? You've been hiding in your ministry.

The other day when I said in this House that it was inappropriate, in a question, that we should have clause-by-clause consideration of this bill at the time of the national debate on the referendum, the minister gave us some bafflegab. Instead of addressing the issue, that is, that the national debate is focusing people on the referendum and not on this—

Interjection.

Mr Turnbull: The people are interested in this and yet the papers are not reporting it at the moment. You are trying to sneak through this legislation because you are so gutless that—

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): We got the press in our back pocket; that's it. It's a conspiracy.

Mr Turnbull: Yes. Yes, indeed. We'll see how much in your back pocket they are in the next election. You are going to be driven from power, and let me assure you, we are going to tear up this legislation.

It's amazing that I had a senior representative of the Boilermakers union visit my office a few weeks ago to say they they don't like this legislation and don't like Bill 80. It said the best labour legislation that ever existed in North America was brought in by the Tories, not by the NDP or any other socialist party known by any other name.

You had promised us amendments which would allow for management from other locations to be brought in, and you brought in amendments which did not address this.

You had issued a press release. It was wrong, and another word for "wrong" is a word that we cannot use in this chamber about a person.

Mr Stockwell: Bob Rae used it.

Mr Turnbull: Yes, Bob Rae used that about the past Premier. Bob Rae said that the past Premier was a liar. Do you remember that? Now, I wonder what words they would use to describe your administration, Bob Rae, and you, Mr Mackenzie. Yes, indeed. Here is the headline: "'Premier has lied to the people,' Rae charges."

The First Deputy Chair: Order, please. I'd ask the honourable member to please be seated for a moment.

The honourable member at this point is, first of all, not addressing through the Chair. Second of all, he is provocative and also talking with the member's own name, which is not acceptable. You're supposed to talk through the Chair and refer to people according to their titles. I'd ask the honourable member to address the Chair, to maintain his comments and to attempt to keep his inflammatory discussion down to some reasonable discourse.

1700

Mr Turnbull: I would suggest that "inflammatory" would be a rather minor term for what the business community feels about this bill. It's very hard to have any respect for ministers who are completely disregarding the economic health of this country and this province, because indeed we are the economic engine of the country.

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): We've already lost 200,000 jobs.

Mr Turnbull: Yes, 295,000 jobs seems to be something the minister can snigger and laugh about. I can tell you, the people who are losing their jobs aren't sniggering and laughing about it.

We have indeed heard from Heenan Blaikie, one of the major law firms that study labour law, that the replacement by management from other locations, the amendment you've brought in, absolutely does not address that issue. Yet you have brought forward all of these press clippings. You've had press conferences to suggest that you've been listening to the business community. Absolute phooey. You have not, because you have brought something that has no relationship to what you told the people in the press conference. In the next election you will see the judgement passed on you that is being passed in the streets today as people say, "How can we get rid of these clowns?"

This piece of legislation has not had any proper scrutiny by the people who should have been party to it.

Interjections.

Mr Turnbull: Why don't you sit down?

The First Deputy Chair: Order.

Mr Turnbull: We do an awful lot better than you guys.

The fundamental questions I'm asking the minister are: Why are you ducking out from any media attention? Why do you refuse to put forward these clause-by-clause considerations until after the referendum? Why didn't you attend any of the hearings we had? You looked in and had about a five-minute speech. Hadn't they woken you up that day and briefed you well enough? It's true: This minister is a minister who is incapable of running anything. You couldn't look after the toilets in this building.

We have concerns by school boards. The school boards are saying that if you have a strike, you will not be—

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): A point of order, Mr Speaker.

The First Deputy Chair: I'd ask the honourable member to please be seated.

Mr Farnan: I sat as the Chair of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly yesterday, and I heard a Conservative member of this House make a plea for decent behaviour in this chamber. This member is a disgrace to the entire assembly and to every member elected in Ontario.

Interjections.

The First Deputy Chair: Order. The honourable member for York Mills has the floor.

Mr Farnan: This is the bottom of the barrel.

Mr Stockwell: You don't remember your days in opposition, do you? What a short memory.

Mr Turnbull: My colleague the member for Etobicoke West reminds the members across the street that they don't remember their days in opposition and all of their tactics. This is a party that is governing us now with total ineptitude, and people are constantly contacting our offices and saying, "How can we get rid of them?" Unfortunately for the electorate, we have to wait until the next election.

It's very interesting that Gerald Caplan, your own spokesman, is talking to Conservatives privately and saying, "We know that we are a one-term government, so we're going to ram down the throats of the electorate everything we want." That is the reality; that's what Gerald Caplan is saying behind the scenes. He has admitted you're a one-term government.

Please have enough sense to realize that it's going to be such a mess after this government. We should not have to mop up all of the dirt that you're leaving behind. Why can't you attend hearings and listen to what people have to say?

If this is inflammatory, it's because I'm so disgusted with a system that allows the minister to completely leave the process of committee of such important legislation to everybody else and not listen. Maybe he was having his afternoon nap, as maybe he should be having, but if he wants to have that he should resign and let the seat be vacant and let us see who wins the seat and then let's see. In fact, this government should resign over this legislation.

This province is doing worse than any other province in Canada in terms of job losses. Why is that happening? It's because of the inhospitable climate that this government has created.

The minister seems to think it's very funny that we're losing so many jobs. I don't.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to respond?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: In the best old Baptist tradition of my father, I understand the member can be a little excitable and I think it's not worth responding to.

The First Deputy Chair: Further discussion?

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I'm going to respond a little bit to what the member for York Mills had to say and to some other members. I did hear some of the comments from across there.

Mr Turnbull: Respond to 295,000 job losses.

Mr Hayes: Let's just talk about those job losses. When we talk about democracy and the workers having the right to vote and to have the secret ballot vote, did those same people have a right to vote on the GST? Did they have the right to vote on free trade? Did they have the right to vote on the inflated dollar? Did they have the right to vote on the interest rates? Those are the reasons that the jobs are lost in this province and in this country. Those are the real reasons. If any jobs are lost in this province that they're saying relate to Bill 40—

Mr Turnbull: The C.D. Howe Institute says you're wrong.

The First Deputy Chair: I call the honourable member for York Mills to order.

Mr Hayes: More jobs may be lost because of the scare tactics that that party over there is putting out—

Mr Stockwell: To order over that?

The First Deputy Chair: Order. That's right. And the honourable member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Hayes: I've heard some comments, little remarks, about the minister here about when he was organizing and how it was 25 years ago that some of these happened. I can inform the members here today that some of the things about people being intimidated or being fired or losing their pay and things of that nature because they mentioned that they would like to join a union, this is happening today and it happened 25 years ago and longer than that. That's why the workers in this province are saying today that we have been waiting way too long, because the things that had been happening 25 or 30 years ago are still happening today in the workplaces and those threats are still there.

I'm going to give some other members some time to speak here. I'd just like to say that my own son David is a part-time worker. I called home today and he said to my wife that Gary, his friend, and him are saying, "Let's get on with this type of legislation because we do need that protection."

Mr Phillips: Get out and create some jobs.

1710

Mr Hayes: Yes, we want to create some jobs. So I would suggest to the members to really accept what has happened and what has caused the jobs to be lost in this province. If they're really concerned about jobs, they should be promoting this province and not going out and telling the public how terrible it is.

I'm sorry that the members on the other side cannot accept the fact that they have an NDP government. It's sour grapes to them and they just can't stand it. You can't stand it.

What this bill is really about is giving people basic rights for decent living.

We talk about free trade, but they don't want to admit it, because both of those parties supported it. Mr David Peterson was going to come back and take that Conservative federal government to court. When Hunt-Wesson, a processor in my riding, closed shortly after the election, I called up the president of the corporation to see what we could do to keep it there, and he quoted what I quoted: The GST, the inflated dollar, high interest rates and free trade were the reasons they were moving their plants back to the States, and of course because of some of the legislation that they like over there. But these corporations love it when they can leave this country and ship goods back in here tariff-free and duty-free. They love that.

I will leave some time for some other members to speak on this. This legislation to give workers decent wages and decent benefits is well overdue. Your types of policies are the ones that scared the jobs away prior to this government ever being elected in 1990.

The First Deputy Chair: Further discussion?

Mr Callahan: The hallmark of this legislation was that it was going to remove violence from the picket lines. When I watch what's going on in here, I wonder whether we should have a bill removing violence from the House.

I'm going to speak very briefly on this. There will be a few points I want to touch on and I have very limited time to do it. I want to say first of all that the difficulty I think has arisen here with this legislation is perhaps the climate in which it was born. There's no question in the mind of any member of this House who is honest with himself or herself, or the members of the public who are watching, that the rules of the House were changed specifically in order to allow this bill to be put through with the least amount of public hearings and the least amount of debate. I think any member who stood up and said that was not the case would be misleading the House. That atmosphere didn't help things; it soured the whole process.

The second thing is that there has not been an impact study done. I find that passing strange, because we're in an economy where every day we hear of plant closures, we hear of jobs being lost. If there's one thing this House should be united in, it's in trying to create an atmosphere in which jobs will be generated and will be available and acceptable. We're not doing that. At least on this side of the House we're saying: "Do an impact study. If you show by the impact study that this bill and all the provisions will

in fact increase jobs and enhance jobs for people in Ontario, then we will take another look at it."

But unfortunately, as I say, the atmosphere under which this bill was born was the rule changes, which were draconian, and the fact that there was no impact study done despite requests from the people on this side to have an impact study done.

Mr Mahoney: The Tories supported the rule changes.

Mr Callahan: That's right. My colleague reminds me that the Conservatives supported the rule changes, so of course they've helped the NDP get us into this conundrum.

But to return to the matter, when you start off by poisoning the atmosphere to that extent, you can't expect that the legislation is going to be received with open arms. Minister, for some reason you're rushing with undue haste to bring into legislation a bill that could have significant impact on this province. You're bringing it in at a time when we can ill afford to lose any more jobs. You're bringing it in at a time when the interest rates are going up and down like seesaws. You're bringing it into an atmosphere where we have some uncertainty in terms of what's happening in the country.

Minister, if the purpose of bringing this in is to help workers, then I suggest that you may very well be putting at risk the very people whom you say you wish to help. Their very jobs may be on the line because of this. If that is the case, if in fact these jobs are being put in jeopardy—and I certainly hope I'm wrong. I certainly hope that the effect of this legislation when it's passed—and it will be passed because, there's no question that the NDP government has the numbers to pass it and it will be law, it will be in existence—will perhaps prove to be beneficial. I don't know.

Certainly, looking at some of the sections of the act, I can't for the life of me understand why the nurses could not have been given the amendment they asked for. It's a simple matter. It would have been an olive branch to the nursing profession. Yet I'm told, and on fairly reliable information, that the OFL was opposed to it.

If that's true, Minister, then you've poisoned the atmosphere again. It means that the union bosses, not the union rank and file but the union bosses, are calling the shot over there. We've got Bob White who meets regularly with the Premier. We've got a couple of the other honchos in the union executive who meet with him.

What you've done is told the nurses of this province specifically: "It doesn't matter what you want. If the union's not in favour of it, if the OFL executive is not in favour of it, you don't get it." I suggest to you that this was a mistake. You could have extended an olive branch to the nurses of this province and you would have at least one group of people who would be on your side.

The second thing I would like to address is the question of the farming community. Minister, you know very well that there were discussions. There was a group that went around and discussed the issue of the farmers being bound by this act. We know, and the farmers understand, that you are going to look at that and perhaps look into the question of the farming community having its own act. If

that's the case—or is this just another George Bush, "Read my lips: No more taxes," and then do it to them—why would you leave a section in the bill that does two things, and two things that are very sneaky? I'm sorry to have to say that, but they are sneaky.

You tell the farmers: "Don't worry about it. Trust me. We're just leaving the section in the act, and as soon as we've got your act in place that section will be removed." The thing you didn't tell the farmers—and I don't think most people out there understand how it operates in this place—is that you've left it to be done by regulation, which means that the cabinet can go down to the back hall on the second floor right now, or as soon as this bill is passed, and can pass a regulation. That's what it's called. A regulation is passed by the cabinet. It has no magic, it sounds great, but it really is a regulation passed by cabinet.

You've told the farmers: "Don't worry about it. We'll fix it afterwards." You have left it in there by way of regulation, which means it will never come to the floor of this Legislature, so the farmers are getting their last kick at the cat by our speaking out and urging you to at least consider striking that part of the bill.

I ask you two things. I would ask you for more, but I know you're committed to what you want to do and you've got the numbers to pass it, so what's the point of trying to get you to change your views on the others? But I would ask you, Minister, before this bill is passed, that you deal with the nursing issue, that you give them their own category. Nothing will be lost through that. Bob White and others are not going to be upset if you do that. Maybe the OFL executive will be, but so what? You're the minister. They have no right to tell you, a freely and duly elected member of the Legislature, what you can do.

The second thing I would ask you to do is to remove the section dealing with the farming community.

1720

If you do those two things, perhaps my standing up here and speaking will have had at least some benefit for those people whom you will make happy by doing that. That's really what it's all about: You want to make them happy. You don't want your members from rural communities to be affected by the factor that you're not listening to the farming community. You don't want them to be affected by the good nurses who tend all of us, tend to our needs when we're ill. Do you want to anger them? What's the point?

Finally, in order to allow some time for my other colleagues, I would like ask you, as you've had no impact study, if this legislation after it's passed—and I'm asking the minister this; I'm asking him to give an undertaking in the House. If it turns out, Minister, that you're wrong and that we're right, because you've not done an impact study, that in fact this legislation does prove over the next little while to be a formula for disaster in terms of keeping plants open, keeping industry here, attracting investment and creating jobs, I'm asking for your undertaking that at that time you will come before the House and you will acknowledge that the bill has not been the success you thought it would be and you will make appropriate amendments, that it will not have to leave the bill in place in

terms of its present situation. I'm asking for that undertaking, Minister, and I'm asking you that as a question.

The minister is smiling because he thinks that's naïve and facetious, but Minister, I think that is totally responsible. You are a minister of the crown. Your responsibility requires that you pass legislation that is good for the citizens of the entire province of Ontario. If it turns out, because you've had no impact study done, that in fact the legislation does all the things that we believe will happen—

Hon Mr Cooke: You're going to come and tell us it's okay?

Mr Callahan: Sure, believe me. The honourable House leader says if it works and if you're wrong, you're going to come and say that the legislation was good. You better believe we will.

The picture the House leader and the New Democratic Party have tried to paint throughout this entire scenario is the factor that they're the saviours of the worker, that they're the only people who care about the workers and that we over here in the official opposition are anti-union, anti-worker. That's the furthest thing from the truth. I suggest that the interests of everyone in this House as elected members of the Legislature should be to ensure that legislation is the best it can be, and if it turns out afterwards that you've made a mistake, have the good grace and the courage to stand up and say you're sorry.

I must say that I'm offended, on a collateral issue, that the Premier of this province and the Solicitor General of this province haven't got enough humility to stand up and say, "I made a mistake," to the police of this province, "in terms of the way we're treating you and my door is open," instead of saying the words quoted in the paper today, "It certainly won't be me calling the meeting." That to me is arrogance of the highest order. I hope that you will appreciate that and that you'll deal with it in that fashion and admit it if you've made a mistake.

I want that undertaking, Minister. If you don't give it to the people of Ontario, I assume you're just thumbing your nose at them.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to reply at this time?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I have no response.

Mrs Witmer: I'd like to continue speaking to some of the amendments the PC party has proposed. As I mentioned before, we have 94 amendments and we have tried to incorporate as much as possible the views of the over 600 groups and individuals who made representation to the committee this summer during five weeks of hearings.

I'd just like to preface the remarks to the next section, section 12, and again state that we're very concerned about Bill 40. I think many of the speakers this afternoon have indicated the concern, the concern being that there has been a lack of consultation on this particular issue. There has never been any study done to determine the economic impact, and unfortunately other studies indicate that we're going to lose jobs, about 300,000 jobs, that we're going to lose investment, about \$8 billion, and that Bill 40, unfortunately, after it's passed next week or the week thereafter, is going to have a very negative impact on the economy.

I'm very concerned about the very high youth unemployment rate that we have in this province at this time. It is 20% higher than anywhere else in Canada. Certainly, that is a very pessimistic sign for our young people. This bill is going to do absolutely nothing to promote job creation or encourage investment, and I am concerned.

However, I'd like to go back to section 12. As I said before, we want to make sure that we incorporate the viewpoints of the people who addressed the committee this past summer.

In section 12, the government here is allowing organizing and picketing on third-party property. We would like to introduce an amendment which would strike out section 12 and maintain the existing Trespass to Property Act protection. We are tremendously concerned about the impact of section 12, which would allow organizing and picketing on third-party property, and this concern was echoed this summer by the More Jobs Coalition, the Retail Council of Canada, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Ontario Mining Association, the Ontario Restaurant Association and Tourism Ontario. The concern is widespread.

The Trespass to Property Act makes it an offence for a person not acting under a right or authority conferred by law to come on private property without the owner's permission or to fail to leave the property when directed to do so by the owner or his agent.

The problem with Bill 40 is that it totally overrides, and it is unbelievable that it does so, the Trespass to Property Act. The right of access to third-party property in the bill is totally going to override the Trespass to Property Act. For the first time in any jurisdiction in Canada, the rights of third-party owners will be subject to the union's right to organize and picket. Such a revolutionary departure from the present state of the law is an unjustified intrusion on what has been considered a fundamental right.

Bill 40 is going to violate not only the rights of property owners but also the rights of innocent consumers. Businesses that share retail space but are not party in any way to the labour dispute are going to have their businesses negatively affected. We know people do not want to shop in a mall where there is picketing. They will simply take their business elsewhere.

In the event that a third party is disrupted by organizing or picketing, relief can be obtained from the board, but only in the event of "undue disruption." In other words, disruption is acceptable as long as it is not "undue disruption." What is "undue disruption"?

This bill fails to provide that the right of access be restricted. I'll give you some examples where now we could have organizing and picketing on third-party property that would impact on innocent people and businesses that share retail space.

You could now have it occurring in the halls or the corridors outside a cafeteria located in a hospital where the cafeteria workers are not employed by the hospital—unbelievable. You could have organizing and picketing where an independent boutique is located within a larger department store, for example, one of the cosmetic counters at a store like Eaton's or Simpsons or the Bay. You could have

organizing and picketing within the foyer of a public building, such as a city hall.

I'm also very concerned that there is no definition within Bill 40 of permissible picketing behaviour. It was interesting, because the cabinet submission, the discussion paper and the fact sheet all indicate that the amendment was intended to give employees who were striking the right to "peacefully" picket. Why has the word "peacefully" been omitted from the text of the bill? It is a very, very, significant departure. Why was it not maintained?

The cabinet submission also stated that access to third-party property would be granted, and I quote, "at such time that the premises or property is accessible or open to the public."

1730

I want to tell you that there is no such limitation on hours within Bill 40. If you grant employees and trade union representatives and individuals 24-hour access to third-party property, it is unreasonable and it is inappropriate. I can tell you that third-party property owners will be forced to incur additional costs in the area of maintenance and security. I would strongly recommend that the government adopt our amendment to remove section 12 totally from the act.

I'd like to speak next to the other section, subsection 19(1) of the bill, subsections 41(1) to (1.3) of the act. What we really would like to do here, although it was ruled out of order, is delete section 19 from the bill. We are very concerned about section 19 in regard to first-contract arbitration. I'm going to speak to our original amendment, section 19, which was originally ruled out of order, and as a result we've introduced another subsection which we hope will be considered.

I'm going to go back to the whole of section 19, first-contract arbitration, for my discussion. I can tell you that employers in this province continue to hold the view that the first-agreement arbitration provision currently found in subsection 41(1) of the act has not been proven inadequate.

Under Bill 40, arbitration will no longer be reserved for exceptional cases where bad faith or unreasonable intransigence has resulted in a failure of the bargaining process. Arbitration is now going to be available in every contract dispute once the necessary 30 days have passed. This amendment is intended, as is the entire bill, to facilitate union organization, because this does allow unions to promise employees that they will not have to go on strike to reach a first contract, and that is a radical change from what is presently found.

What is going to happen? How does this facilitate unionization? If you have a very weak and vulnerable union—and there are those within the province—that union can simply wait 30 days and then have the dispute arbitrated. Unfortunately, this is going to remove the obligation from labour and management to resolve difficult negotiating issues, and it's going to turn the responsibility over to a third party. That is what concerns so many people.

You tell us that this bill is intended to improve cooperation and harmony between the employer and the employee. What you're doing here in first-contract arbitration

by going to arbitration after 30 days is removing the obligation from the two sides to come together to resolve their differences. It's not going to help the cooperation, it's not going to help the harmony, and furthermore, the union no longer will have to prove that the employer is unjustifiably intransigent.

Arbitrated first contract is going to become the norm in this province. This proposal is going to have the effect of preventing management from taking a firm but very fair stance on issues. Again, it helps to destroy the delicate balance that was in the bill originally.

While maintaining a threshold for first-contract arbitration is necessary to encourage serious bargaining, I can tell you that the elimination is going to be detrimental to the collective bargaining process and, unfortunately, it's going to work directly against the goal of greater labour-management cooperation.

We have to remember that the first collective agreement sets the framework for all future collective bargaining. Once arbitration is instituted, the employer will have no say in terms of the first collective agreement. It's frightening to consider that terms may even be decided, and will be, without any regard to the real costs to an employer's business.

We in the Ontario caucus believe that the best agreement is one that parties freely agree to, both employees and employer. Legislation must promote the free collective bargaining of an agreement rather than promoting artificial agreements that are imposed by third parties. That, unfortunately, is exactly what this section is intended to do. It's going to remove the opportunity for the two sides to come together and reach consensus on issues.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to respond?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'd like to respond to some of the points that have been raised by the member for Waterloo North. The argument that we have not done the consulting is one that has been raised time and time again in this House, and I think I can say to the member that I don't know an issue or a bill, certainly in the years I've been in the House, that we've had more consultation on.

Following the release of the detailed discussion paper on Bill 40 in November 1991, I personally was on the tour of the province. I know the member sat in at some of the sessions and we've heard from more than 330 groups across the province of Ontario. We've had a constant and solid consultation process with the umbrella groups within the ministry as well, three times around with all of the umbrella groups in the Labour ministry. That was followed by the province-wide committee hearings in August of this year, in which another some 250 presentations were made.

We not only listened, we made changes, and some of them are major. We have some comments and thanks on record from a number of individuals and firms for these changes. We changed the purpose clause, dropped the proposal to give supervisors bargaining rights and a proposal to provide for automatic certification with majority support. Also gone are proposals to provide access to employee lists for organizing and to employers' property.

There has been plenty of consultation, discussion and debate. It's about time we approved the bill and gave it a chance to see what we think it will do in this province of Ontario.

I would once again remind you that you can continue quoting the 295,000 jobs, or I think you used the figure of 300,000, and \$8-billion investment, but I suggest that you go back to the survey itself that was done and read the caution put in by the surveyors themselves, and when you're taking a look at those kinds of figures realize that it came from some 330 business leaders alone, and was not a professional survey. It was really an attempt to decide what the business community thought, and they themselves, in the survey that was done, put the caution there that this could very well be influenced by the desire of the respondents to influence the legislation that was going through. I don't know anybody who gives it credit as a real, legitimate survey.

In terms of the PC motion to section 12 of the bill, access to third-party property, this motion would strike out the provisions of Bill 40 providing limited access to third-party property for the purposes of organizing and picketing. The government's intention in Bill 40 is to make the act more responsive to the changing workplace and changing workforce, and in particular to women and minorities in the retail and service sectors, many of whom do work part-time for low wages and are among the groups the evidence has shown find it hardest to organize in the province of Ontario.

Right now, the Trespass to Property Act bars unions from organizing or picketing on premises to which the public has access for a variety of other reasons. This provision would take organizing and picketing off the street and away from the front entrances of shopping malls and closer to the employer's actual premise. In response to concerns raised by employers, access is restricted to the exits and entrances of employers' property, and there will be a fast access to the board, one of the things we've done for relief if there are disruptions.

1740

The government has also announced that the Ministry of the Attorney General will conduct a study of the law and conduct of picketing. These are the reasons why we don't support the PC motion.

I should also point out that it has become fairly obvious, in the change in our society, that the shopping malls are the new public thoroughfares in many of our towns and cities. Without some access there, it's going to be very difficult for people who desire to organize.

In a confrontational dispute over a first contract, I think the existing scheme is not easy to access, and litigation is long—that's the history the ministry has on record—and costly. It can take several months to obtain approval from the OLRB. In one case, 613 days elapsed between the application and the board decision. Anybody who knows anything about an organizing drive will realize that 613 days—and there's not a heck of a lot of protection or ability to guarantee the kind of organization the employees may have wanted.

A 30-day waiting period is substantial and will require the parties to take bargaining seriously. Most people don't want an automatic settlement. They want to be able to negotiate. We have to have access to that negotiation, and I think that's part of the intent.

These are just some answers to some of the questions you've raised and why we will not be supporting some of the amendments you have raised with us.

Mrs Witmer: I would like to respond to the minister. I think your response has once again highlighted the intent of Bill 40. I agree there's a need for change. However, it becomes very obvious that Bill 40 is intended to facilitate unionization at a time when jobs are being lost. Although you talk about the need for organizing and picketing on third-party property, it reinforces the fact that the intent is to organize the retail, service and financial sectors, sectors that have not been organized before. I feel very uncomfortable that there isn't really any concern in here for individuals and their rights and freedoms. The entire package is a scheme to facilitate unionization and to make sure that whatever happens, there are sections in here that facilitate, and make sure that does occur.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the minister wish to respond?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Very briefly, because I don't particularly want to get into a dialogue at this stage of the debate.

There's no automatic organization. The organization is only there, I would remind the member, if the workers decide they want it, and they still have to go through the process. Surely, in a democratic society, she's not saying that right shouldn't be there and equally accessible to all workers who may decide they do want this right.

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): It's a pleasure to participate in the debate at this time. I'm going to try to answer some basic questions that I'm sure the people of Ontario may have about Bill 40 and the clauses contained in that bill.

One question that has been touched on today—indeed has been touched on since Bill 40 was first discussed—is the reason why. I think there's consensus in this room and throughout Ontario that one of the reasons is that the workplace and workforce have changed drastically since the mid-1970s, and the act itself, the Ontario Labour Relations Act, has not kept pace with that change.

When I look at my own community of Brantford, as early as the mid-1980s we were dominated by a blue-collar manufacturing base in primarily two companies, Massey-Ferguson and White Farm. Both those companies are gone, gone in the mid-1980s during the supposedly boom times we experienced in our country. The service sector has grown by leaps and bounds to replace those jobs, but unfortunately, the jobs in the service sector are not as well paying, typically, as they were in the blue-collar base. The fact is, the workplace and workforce has changed. More women than ever are in the workforce.

I won't touch on picket line violence and how I believe Bill 40 will reduce that, because my good friend George

Mammoliti is going to entertain that view if he has time and I can get through my points here.

People say we haven't consulted. Let me tell you, my friends, since the Burkett committee first released its report, I can't think of any other bill that has received as much consultation, as much discussion or as much attention in the history of this Legislature. Even Bill 162, introduced by the previous government, which was very controversial by its very nature, I don't believe had as much consultation as this did.

In the spring, we released a discussion paper on the issue of updating the labour act. Over 300 groups and organizations, business, labour and individuals, had an opportunity to give presentations to the minister and to the capable parliamentary assistant, Sharon Murdock. Bill 40 was drafted from those discussions and consultations. In the summer, in August, the standing committee on resources development travelled throughout the province, and another 240 groups, individuals, business and labour, had an opportunity to give presentations. So there has been consultation, my friends.

Critics of the bill say we haven't made changes. In the original Burkett commission and in a discussion paper, there was a suggestion that supervisors should be allowed to organize, that there should be access to company property for union organizers and that there should be access to employee lists. The purpose clause was worded in such a way, and the critics of Bill 40 said, "We want those out" or "We want them modified," and we listened. Supervisors are exempt from organizing. There's no access to company property for union organizers. You can't get employee lists. The purpose clause has been modified.

Let me talk briefly about investment. In my community of Brantford, we've had our tough times. I mentioned the Masseys and Whites and the decimation that occurred in our economy, but we've also lost other plants: Maple Leaf; Protein Foods; Koehring Waterous, our oldest industry; American Healthcare; Chicago Rawhide. All of those plants weren't closed because of Bill 40; they were closed because of bankruptcy, because of corporate rationalization or primarily because of free trade.

We've had investment in Brantford: Gates Canada, \$4 million in April and an additional \$8 million coming very soon; BASF, a German company, \$6 million; Western Foundry, which I just helped to open up on Saturday, 90 jobs created.

I don't pretend that this investment is the result of Bill 40 either. I think it's because of our workforce, our infrastructure, our education, our quality of life and our dollar. All those intangible items go into investment decisions.

Labour law reform is simply one piece of the economic puzzle that we're trying to put together to meet the challenges we're facing in the 1990s. With the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, the infrastructure, the education reform we're undertaking, Jobs Ontario and the Ontario investment initiatives we're undertaking, I think we're well on our way to meeting the economic challenges we're facing in this province now and well into the future, into the 21st century.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to reply?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I appreciate the remarks we had from the member. No reply at this time.

The First Deputy Chair: Further discussion?

Mr Callahan: When last I spoke, I asked for the undertaking of the minister that if the legislation proved to be either bad or disastrous in terms of job loss and investment lost, he would revisit the bill and change it if necessary or withdraw it. The minister has not given us that undertaking, so I'm going to move to another aspect.

1750

The bill itself has a clause that reads as follows:

"2.1 The following are the purposes of this act:

"1. To ensure that workers can freely exercise the right to organize by protecting the right of employees to choose, join and be represented by a trade union of their choice and to participate in the lawful activities of the trade union."

That's an admirable purpose clause, Minister, and I trust that your government, in enacting that, honestly believes that's what you want to do. Having said that, it seems to me that it flies in the face of logic, in light of that purpose clause, that you would require part-time and full-time employees to be potentially in the same bargaining unit, and that you would allow that to happen by a 50% vote of the body itself.

I put to you this scenario, and perhaps your colleagues who were on the committee didn't relate this to you: For argument's sake, let's say that 50% of the full-time workers vote in favour of this, for want of a better word, shotgun wedding, and in fact the part-time workers are denied their rights to have a separate union and could in essence wind up in the same bargaining unit. If that bargaining unit went out on strike, it would mean that these part-time workers would be dragged out in the same strike in a bargaining unit which they didn't wish to be part of.

I suggest to you, Mr Minister, that it doesn't take a rocket scientist—I can assure you I'm not a rocket scientist, and all of you over there are nodding in agreement. Mr Minister, how can you square that—and I'm going to ask you to speak to this—to the purpose of the bill, that's your bill, which says:

"The following are the purposes of this act:

"1. To ensure that workers can freely exercise the right to organize by protecting the right of employees to choose, join and be represented by a trade union of their choice and to participate in the lawful activities of the trade union?"

Clearly, as I say, anybody watching this who just tuned in right now would have no difficulty in following that the purpose clause flies right in the face of the endeavour by this bill to force together part-time and full-time workers. I suggest to you that there was an amendment put forward by the Liberal official opposition that would have solved that problem and would have allowed your purpose clause, as imperfect as it is, to have some logical sense. Basically, that was that the percentage would have to be weighed out of both sides—out of the part-time and the full-time—in

order to give them an opportunity to truly have their rights protected, as the clause says, to join and be represented by the trade union of their choice.

Minister, I suggest you look at that, unless you have an answer as to why that purpose clause is in fact being bent or destroyed by the very provision dealing with part-time and full-time workers.

I suggest to you as well, Minister, that many of the people out there in my riding who I hope vote for me, and I think they do, are rank-and-file members of the union. I think it's absolutely tragic that you are attempting to sell this bill to them on the basis that it's going to be good for them. It's going to be good for one thing and one thing only, and it's something I've learned since I've been here since 1985: When you people were in opposition every bill had this sort of hook to it. The hook was, "Let's increase the opportunity for unionization so that the leaders of the unions and the NDP, which benefits from the checkoff of these union members, will have more money to run our campaigns."

I will be presenting to this House, as I indicated, a motion later in writing—I didn't want to take up the time of the House—questioning whether or not your action in presenting a bill of this type and the resulting increase in the coffers of the New Democratic Party is not in breach of the Legislative Assembly Act, in that you people are espousing and putting forward a bill that will assist your party in terms of financing it.

You can say to me: "Well, checkoff moneys are given by unions to the NDP by resolution. That resolution can always be changed." I defy you to tell me that there isn't at least one union in this province that in fact does not have a resolution on the books, and has not had it there for a significant period time, that requires the checkoff money to be delivered to the New Democratic Party. If I'm correct then, I suggest to you that you are in breach of the Legislative Assembly Act, because you are speaking on the bill that is going to increase the coffers of the New Democratic Party and prepare its war chest for an election.

If any party in this House, the Liberals or the Conservatives, attempted to put through a bill that was going to increase and aid them in financing their election campaigns, you can be sure that this would be in breach of the Legislative Assembly Act. You, as members, have directly or indirectly benefited or will benefit from the results of this legislation, so I simply tell you that I intend to put that motion forward. It will be up to the Chair, I suppose, to decide whether or not that's a valid motion at the time I put it forward.

There is certainly a question through the minds of the rank and file, many of whom don't wish to have the check-off. In fact, I understand there may be a very large withdrawal of a particular union from the provision of checkoff. They don't want to have their money specifically directed to your party. They want to have the freedom of opportunity to be able to use their money in support of whatever party they consider is espousing their cause.

I can suggest to you that the workers of this province have been and will continue to be supported by the Liberal Party—they have always been supported by the Liberal

Party—and you people are not the be-all and end-all of the working people in this province.

I suggest, Mr Minister, I'd like you to answer that question for me about the issue of the difference between your purpose clause and the section dealing with the part-time and full-time workers.

The First Deputy Chair: I thank the honourable member. Does the minister wish to reply?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Very briefly. I debated whether or not I intended to, because you get a question that you think might be a legitimate question. Then you get the shotgun wedding and other charges and you wonder whether there's any reason to respond at all to the member.

But let me tell you, the member seems to assume there's no community of interest. I can tell him right now that part-timers don't have the right to organize. The board separates them from the full-timers and it's a disincentive in the unit. They don't have the strength, and I think that's one of the reasons why I should also point out to him that there's not another province that doesn't allow them to be grouped into the same unit, nor the federal government. We're the only province in the country that doesn't give them that right.

The First Deputy Chair: Further discussion?

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Very quickly, I wanted to talk a little bit about an area in the bill that I'm very glad to address. Replacement workers have always been an issue with workers. More specifically, violence on picket lines is something that I always had a concern about. I spoke about this in second reading and I want to talk briefly about this right now. I don't think there's a member from the Liberal Party or from the Conservative Party who has actually visited a particular family who has gone through that ordeal.

Mr Stockwell: Oh, stop it.

Mr Mammoliti: The member for Etobicoke West tells me to stop it. I'm not going to stop it. That man there has never visited a home during a strike. That man there has never visited a home with children in it who are suffering because the father or the mother is stuck on a picket line because of replacement workers.

They haven't. That stone of a man, the member for York Mills, has not done that. If they were to visit a family that is suffering on a picket line for two, three, four months, sometimes two and three years, they wouldn't be speaking like this. They would not be this cold. They are cold people, stone, and they're very hard to break.

But people can read them. They can read this man today with this speech, this so-called stone speech that he made today. This doesn't only pertain to them. It pertains to the Liberals as well, because I don't think any of them have visited families who have suffered through the ordeal of picket line, because of replacement workers, having to fight to put food on the table.

I am really disgusted with some of the attitudes over there, and I can't understand why, for the life of me, they would not agree with this bill.

The First Deputy Chair: Would the minister like to respond with the last few seconds remaining?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I think what we're hearing were comments from the heart and I appreciate them.

The First Deputy Chair: I recognize the honourable member for Downsview. There are 23 seconds.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): I thought we were going to have 40 seconds or so, so not to take any wind out of my sails, I'll save some of my time for when we continue the debate tomorrow. I thank you for recognizing me and I turn it over to the House leader so he can announce the business for next week.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Chair, I move that the committee rise and report.

The First Deputy Chair: Mr Cooke has moved that the committee rise and report.

1800

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): The committee of the whole House begs to report progress and asks leave for it to sit again. Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed.

Hon Mr Cooke: I would like to request unanimous consent to move to routine motions, one to deal with the fact that the House won't be sitting on Monday and one to allow some private members' bills to be dealt with next week. Both have been agreed to by the opposition House leaders.

The Acting Speaker: Is there unanimous consent of the House? It's agreed.

MOTIONS

HOUSE SITTING

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I move that when the House adjourns today, it stands adjourned until 1:30 pm on Tuesday, October 27, 1992.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Does the motion carry? Carried.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I move that standing order 87 respecting notice of committee hearings be suspended for the consideration of Bills Pr44, Pr59, Pr62, Pr67 and Pr52 by the standing committee on regulations and private bills on Wednesday, October 28, 1992.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Now I'd ask the honourable House leader to make the business statement.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Pursuant to standing order 53, I'd like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Tuesday, October 27, we will consider an opposition motion standing in the name of Mr Elston.

On Wednesday, October 28, we will continue with committee of the whole House consideration of Bill 40, the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments.

On the morning of Thursday, October 29, during private members' public business, we'll deal with ballot item 27 standing in the name of Mr Harnick and ballot item 28 standing in the name of Mr Johnson, and in the afternoon of October 29 we will consider a motion for interim supply.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Pursuant to standing order 34, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made.

The member for York Mills has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to the question given today by the honourable Minister of Labour. The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter and the minister has five minutes to reply.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Yesterday I pointed out to the Minister of Labour in question period that in four days' time, the country is facing a referendum on probably the most important issue to face our nation since Confederation.

At this time of national decision-making, it would be appropriate that we, at the very least, consider only less significant bills when the public's attention is focused on the referendum—

Interjection: And the Premier's not here.

Mr Turnbull: And the Premier's not here—rather than our having a situation where the most significant bill the government has pushed through during its term is being rammed through the House at this time.

You know very well, Minister, that the public attention is diverted to the Constitution. It's also diverted, frankly, to the Blue Jays. You're putting through this legislation when the public attention is turned away and the media are not spending any press space on what is going on in this House.

I would suggest that this is fundamentally undermining the process that your Premier said at the swearing-in ceremony he was committed to, open government. This is not open government.

You know, Minister, from the number of presentations that have been made on Bill 40 that it is considered to have the potential for costing 295,000 jobs, by the estimate of Ernst and Young, and another group has suggested it could

cost as many as half a million jobs. You may say that's not true, but you haven't produced one shred of evidence to suggest that it's wrong.

The point I am making is that considering the significance of this legislation—significance to you, the side that is proposing it, and significance to the other, the opposition parties which are opposing it—it is inappropriate that you are not giving the proper airing to the media and to the public of this legislation. I suggest that is not fair. It is not fair to the electorate. This is a sneaky way of doing business; it's a sneaky way of government. I would have expected more of this government, but slowly I am beginning to realize I shouldn't expect anything of your government, other than sneaky, dirty tactics. You're destroying the economy.

As I said earlier today, Gerry Caplan is privately speaking to people outside and saying he knows you've accepted you're a one-term government, and you're trying to push through this horrible legislation. That may be the case, you may argue with it, but at least you should have the intellectual honesty to be able to allow proper scrutiny of this bill, and what you're doing today is not allowing this.

Will you not at least ask the government House leader to stop the whole consideration of this bill until all the dust has settled, whichever way it goes, on the Constitution?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Very briefly, when the member got excited about this yesterday, it was on the basis that we were trying to sneak the legislation through. I said to him then and I say to him now, in the 18 years I've had the privilege to sit in this House, I don't know of another piece of legislation that has not had more publicity, more consultation, more meetings with groups and more discussion in a committee than this particular legislation. The suggestion that somehow or other Bill 40 is being sneaked through in Ontario is just a goofy suggestion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): There being no further matter to debate, I deem the motion to adjourn to be carried. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock on Tuesday, October 27.

The House adjourned at 1808.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	
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Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	
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Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	
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Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	
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St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
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Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
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Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
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Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 27 October 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 27 octobre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 27 October 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): It is indeed a privilege for me today to rise and honour our world champions, the Toronto Blue Jays.

[Applause]

I can see we have unanimous consent on this one.

Over the past 15 years, and particularly over the past month, the Toronto Blue Jays have given Canadians a reason to smile, a reason to cheer, a reason to feel good about themselves and a reason to feel pride in their country.

The members of my family are all avid Blue Jays fans, to the extent that my 14-year-old daughter and I travelled down to Atlanta this past weekend to be at game 6 of the World Series. We wanted to be there to cheer on our beloved Blue Jays and to be there as Canada's baseball team made history.

What a roller-coaster ride it was. Imagine being a little island, my daughter and myself, two Blue Jays fans among 52,000 Atlanta Braves fans, all doing that perfectly synchronized tomahawk chop and the chant that I was to remember in my dreams and my nightmares for days afterwards.

Some will say it is ironic that it took a group of American, Puerto Rican and Dominican ball players to unite Canada, but that sells Canada and Canadians short. The ownership, administration and fans are all Canadians, and we're the ones who helped build this superb team. From across this country, from Vancouver to Saint John's, the team was Canada's, on the field and in our hearts.

Congratulations, and go Blue Jays.

PORNOGRAPHY

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): This week, people across Canada are sending their elected representatives white ribbons to show their concern that pornography is harmful to the individual, the family and the community.

Those of us who wear white ribbons are worried that some children are receiving their sex education from pornography. We are worried that there is no law against the possession of pornography, and we are worried that the degradation and violence of pornography hurts society, particularly women and children.

Last fall, I sponsored a private member's resolution which received the unanimous support of this Legislature. My resolution petitioned the federal government to replace the Criminal Code's ambiguous definition of obscenity. Since then, a Supreme Court of Canada decision has clarified what is obscene and has stated that the distribution of pornography is not protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

None the less, there is widespread concern that the Ontario Film Review Board still does not reflect community standards in releasing many adult sex videos. Moreover, adult video stores are increasing in many communities, including Mississauga. As X-rated videos become readily available, they fall into the hands of children. A study by Dr James Check of York University shows that children between the ages of 12 and 17 are the primary consumers of pornography in Canada.

I therefore ask all members to join me in wearing a white ribbon this week and fighting the spread of pornography.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Last week and last weekend there was a fever. We caught that fever. It was the Blue Jays fever. We won. We won the World Series. For the first time in history, Canadians have got something tangible we can celebrate, and we did celebrate, with a fever. Out on Yonge Street, people were dancing, people were singing, out on the streets, out in the parks. There was a fever. We caught that fever.

I want to thank the Blue Jays. I want to thank Cito Gaston. I want to thank everybody who was involved with that team for what they have done for this country. They have brought us together. We are united. This weekend was history, and I am proud, and I am telling them today from Yorkview, thank you, thank you very much. Thank you, Blue Jays, for everything you have done, not only for the city but the rest of the country. Thank you for uniting us.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I stand here once again on behalf of my constituents in the riding of Oriole to congratulate the Toronto Blue Jays, the city of Toronto and Canada.

Late Saturday night, in the 11th inning, the Blue Jays made baseball history as they became the first team outside the United States, the first Canadian team, to win the World Series. Our excitement and our joy was overwhelming. Hundreds of thousands of fans poured on to Yonge Street Saturday night. People just wanted to cheer, to yell and have a good time. What a party.

Yesterday that same winning spirit and excellent behaviour was displayed once again as thousands of people turned out to congratulate their Jays. Inside SkyDome and along the parade route, people yelled and cheered for their baseball heroes.

The Blue Jays are number one in baseball. Toronto and all of Canada are proud of the Blue Jays. Our team brought us home the greatest achievement in baseball, the World Series trophy. Today I congratulate Toronto, Canada, and of course the very special Blue Jays. The Jays are number one, but so are their fans.

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): The Toronto Blue Jays have won the World Series and won the hearts of Torontonians, Ontarians and Canadians across the country. On Saturday night, 500,000 people in Toronto marched jubilantly

down Yonge Street in celebration of Canada's first World Series win, and the celebrations continued over the weekend and into Monday during the welcome-home parade and festivities.

We should be proud of the Blue Jays' hard work and the wonderful accomplishment they've achieved. I'm certain I speak for all members of this House and for all Ontarians when I extend a big congratulations and thank you to the Blue Jays—and Mr Speaker, I'm not going to sing this year.

Not only have the Blue Jays given Canadians a sense of pride and unity, but economically they have injected tens of millions of dollars into the Metro Toronto and Ontario economy. Tourists and reporters from around the continent and around the world congregated in this city last week to witness the World Series games at the SkyDome.

It's unfortunate that the Minister of Tourism and Recreation was not there to personally welcome media people from around the world and act as an advocate for the Tourism ministry in Metro and Ontario. This was a unique and maybe once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to promote the many tourist attractions of Ontario to the world. Unfortunately, I understand the minister was away on personal leave last week. Obviously the window of opportunity which the World Series presented in terms of tourism promotion was not a priority with him.

I'm looking forward to another World Series victory next year for the Jays. We're proud of you, Blue Jays. Keep up the good work.

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GREEK CELEBRATIONS

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): Last Sunday, it was a real honour to be able to participate with members of Metro's Greek community in marking the 40th anniversary of OXI Day. That parade, which is the anniversary and looking back, marks a time in history when Greece was able to repel the dark forces and democracy reigned on that day on October 28, 1940. The Greeks rallied together and were able to come together to defend their country, and this parade marks that anniversary. It's important to have that place in history, because that shows an assembly of people coming together in democracy and unity for peace, stability and prosperity.

After the parade, we then marched over to Nathan Phillips Square and city hall, where we had many speeches from leaders of the Greek community. We had wonderful dances from the Greek community from the dance troupes, and it shows how wonderful the culture and community are, how proud they are of their traditions. It was good to see that cooperation coming within the community, and it's a good thing to remember that we have these people as part of our community, that they share the values and the principles of democracy, and that is the basis of stability and economic growth of any community.

NORTHERN ONTARIO BUSINESS AWARDS

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): I rise today to acknowledge and honour the Northern Ontario Business Awards, which I attended on Thursday last in

Sault Ste Marie. Approximately 500 women and men from across the north came together to celebrate and honour the north's business people. All northerners thank Michael Atkins and his cohorts for again making this evening and day most memorable. I'd like to take a moment to share my congratulations, and those of the Liberal caucus, with those honoured.

Company of the year, one to 25 employees, went to Miller Technology of North Bay. Our congratulations to Ron Miller and his people.

Company of the year, 26 to 50 employees, went to Dingwell's Machinery and Supply of Thunder Bay. Our congratulations to Patrick Gilbride and partner Robert Bell and their dedicated employees.

Company of the year, 51-plus employees, went to Great Lakes Power of Sault Ste Marie, Don Watson, president. A tip of the hat to Don and friends at this dynamic electrical utility.

The entrepreneur of the year award went to the dynamic and versatile Vic Prokopchuk of Atikokan, whose community involvement and leadership talents were well documented.

Young entrepreneur of the year award went to Doug Nadorozny of the AMS Group (Sudbury). Our congratulations.

The executive of the year award went to Frank Dottori of Spruce Falls Paper.

On behalf of all members of this assembly, our best for the future, because the business people of Ontario, particularly northern Ontario, are our future.

NURSING HOMES

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of Health, and it concerns her government's treatment of Ontario's vulnerable seniors who are unable to care for themselves.

Since September 1990, 20 nursing homes in Ontario have closed. The 94-bed Bestview Health Care Centre in Orillia has never had any new beds allocated from the provincial government since it first opened its doors. Bestview alone has a waiting list of more than 100 vulnerable seniors waiting for beds.

It's been indicated to me that other nursing homes in Orillia, as well as those in Penetanguishene and Elmvale, also have lengthy waiting lists.

I would really like to know what I'm supposed to tell people like Nancy Crisp of Big Cedar Estates, who is in desperate need of a nursing home bed for her husband.

Minister, your treatment of vulnerable seniors is deplorable. You do not appear to be too concerned about sending out more health cards than there are people in Ontario, and you do not appear to be too concerned about wasting more than \$39 million on a scheme to reduce medicare fraud when that scheme itself is open to abuse.

I would suggest that the time is long overdue for you to live up to your responsibilities. Get your spending priorities in order so that the vulnerable seniors in Ontario can have access to nursing home beds and receive the dignified care and treatment they so richly deserve.

NIPISSING COLLEGE

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): This afternoon I will be moving the first reading of a private bill—note, not a private member's bill but a private bill—regarding Nipissing College. Right now, degrees are conferred upon Nipissing graduates by the university in my riding, Laurentian University. This bill will allow Nipissing University College its own power to confer its own degrees upon its own students.

What is memorable about this bill is that, first, we in the north will have another university in the north to particularly service the Highway 11 north-south corridor, and, secondly, that all three parties in this House are waiving the five-day reporting period to allow the bill to come before the standing committee on regulations and private bills tomorrow morning. This is truly an example of how we all can work together.

Much if not all of the work was done by the president of Nipissing College, Dr David Marshall. He spent many hours working on the proposal in order to be granted this power, and he's contacted all parties to ensure that everyone at least is informed with full information. I look forward to introducing this bill tomorrow morning, and I want to welcome Dr David Marshall, who is sitting in the gallery.

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I rise under standing order 21 to bring to your attention a serious problem. Because we are given particular information in this place about the manner in which certain activities are carried on by the ministers and the ministries, we now have proof that we don't get the full story, that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, for instance, is putting out a different story than it has provided here in this House and that is put out by some of the members of the government party.

Not only does this first edition of Mr Cooke's personal newsletter around the province contain some information which does not comply with what was given to us in the House, it comes with a full-size personal cutout of Mr Cooke. A three-colour production produced at this time when our budgets are all under terrible stress is wasteful. More than that, when another minister of the government is on record as opposing the building of the Palladium and in fact was going around telling her constituents in the Ottawa area that the government did not support it, we have the point of privilege of finding out that David Cooke and Dale Martin actually gave Ottawa the Palladium.

Mr Speaker, I wish that you would make an inquiry as to who is telling the truth. Is it the Ministry of Municipal Affairs first edition, a very expensive piece, or is it the member and the minister from Ottawa Centre?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Bruce certainly seems to have some good ammunition for a question in question period. I thought at first he was concerned that his picture wasn't in the publication. That as well, perhaps, will find its way to the floor of the House during the oral questions.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On the same point of personal privilege, Mr Speaker: I want to indicate also that the part which was referred to on the Palladium made many members of this Legislature ill when they read it.

The Speaker: We certainly want all members of the assembly to be in good health.

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members to welcome to our chamber, and indeed to our country, a special visitor who is seated at the table, Mr Oluyemi Ogunyomi, who is the chief legislative officer from the National Assembly of Nigeria. You're most welcome to our chamber.

CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT
ENTENTE CONSTITUTIONNELLE

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I wonder if I might have the unanimous consent of the House to make a brief statement with respect to the results of the referendum last night. I've discussed this with the opposition leaders, and I think we all agreed this morning it would be a good idea.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Do we have unanimous consent? Agreed? Agreed.

Hon Mr Rae: I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the House, if only briefly, in addition to the comments that I made publicly last night. I think the results are now in, and it's clear that while the referendum result was a positive one in a number of places and jurisdictions, including, I'm proud to say, our own province of Ontario, and I'm very proud of that fact, I think it's also clear that the rejection of the referendum in the province of Quebec and in the western provinces clearly means that the process of renewal that started several months ago, indeed a couple of years ago, and concluded in the accord at Charlottetown with the referendum has now been concluded.

As I've told the people in the province of Ontario, I accept that result. I accept it entirely as an expression of public opinion in the province of Ontario, accept it as an expression from Canada and see it very clearly as an indication not that the idea of federalism has been rejected and not that the idea of our making progress has been rejected but simply in the reality that this particular accord has not met with sufficient approval to proceed.

1350

Obviously, I am disappointed in the result. I'm sure members, whatever their own views may be with respect to the issue at hand, will perhaps appreciate in a brief moment of non-partisanship that when you spend a great many working hours, days and nights, trying to achieve something and feel you've come very close and you've given it everything you've got to make it succeed and it doesn't happen—I hope members will recognize there is naturally a sense of personal disappointment on my part.

Let me also make it clear, however, that there's no point in our looking back. We have to proceed as a country together. We have to take the time to reflect on and learn the meaning of this experience, of what has taken place.

The issue of job creation, of making the country work better, of getting our province to work better, of making sure we're all working more effectively on behalf of the public of the province, that reality and that issue are very much ahead of us and ahead of this government.

I can report to the House today, as I've tried to do on a number of other occasions, that I've had a number of very candid conversations in the last couple of days. I can tell the House, for example, that I spoke today with Premier Bourassa. He was extremely constructive. He was determined to continue the fight for Canada in his own province and sees the task ahead, I think, very clearly in terms of the tasks we face together. I took heart from that conversation.

I can also reflect to members the conversations I had with Chief Mercredi as well as Chief Peters in the province of Ontario and say to the House that I conveyed to those two leaders my own sense that it was now incumbent upon all of us to work together and try in a practical way to achieve some of the things which we all felt, certainly I felt very strongly, would be achieved in the context of the constitutional discussion. That task remains ahead of us and I think it is critical for us to do so.

We live in a democracy in which people were offered a challenge and a choice, and they made it. It is now up to all of us to attempt to interpret and work with the choices the people have given to us. I do so without any regret and I do so without any sense of nostalgia for what might have been. I gave it my all. I think I was speaking on behalf of a consensus of the members of this Legislature when I did so.

I spoke from platforms in northern Ontario and in the south; I spoke in English, French and other languages as well. I tried to convey as clearly as I could the need for generosity, compassion, imagination and courage in the renewal of our Constitution. I continue to believe that those are qualities that are necessary in the building of a better Canada. They are qualities which we will all have to bring to the debate and the discussion in the creation of jobs, in making the country work better, in the practical work we have to do together, and I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that we simply must move ahead, move on and do it together in a spirit of determination, in a constructive way.

C'est naturel peut-être de parler directement et franchement à mes concitoyens de la province de l'Ontario du fait que je suis fier que nous ayons réussi à convaincre une majorité d'Ontariens de l'avantage du Oui dans le vote référendaire. Mais, quand on voit le résultat à travers le pays, il est clair que l'appui pour le Oui n'a pas été suffisamment fort pour que nous puissions conclure ce rang de discussions constitutionnelles de façon positive.

Je regrette beaucoup cette décision de la part de mes concitoyens canadiens. Mais, naturellement, il y a des choses dans la vie qu'on regrette, et j'accepte tout à fait, clairement, la décision de l'électorat.

J'ai parlé ce matin avec M. Bourassa. C'était une discussion très positive. Nous avons réaffirmé encore, nous deux, le partenariat nécessaire et essentiel qui existe entre nos deux provinces. J'ai parlé aussi avec les chefs autochtones, le chef Mercredi et le chef Peters de notre province, pour les encourager de la réalité que nous allons

continuer à travailler ensemble, et nous allons le faire d'une façon très positive et constructive.

Même si on est déçus des résultats, on doit les accepter et on doit travailler avec toutes nos forces et toute notre capacité pour l'avenir.

On a personal note, I would just express my gratitude to the Leader of the Opposition and to the leader of the Conservative Party. First of all, I know that my absences from the House have been a source of some discussion and comment. They are a fact of life which stems from these obligations.

I would say to the Leader of the Opposition and to the leader of the third party that I have appreciated the non-partisan, constructive spirit in which they have consistently carried on with this debate and this discussion. I particularly appreciate the support that I've had from members of the Liberal Party caucus and from members of the Conservative caucus.

I think we've all recognized in a very positive way and a positive spirit the fact that however intense the partisan debates may be and however intense our partisan differences may be, we must, on this file, continue to work together. I can assure members of the House that I will continue to act in that way as we discuss these issues.

May I also, on behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, express my gratitude to the many members of the Ontario public service, at all levels, who have worked extraordinarily hard in this debate. We are remarkably served by the quality of the people who have served us and who have given us advice and who have worked very hard to achieve a successful result. I know that just as I am disappointed, so are they, but I want to convey to the deputy and to everyone working in the ministry and to people working in other ministries my sense of pride in the work they have done and my personal gratitude for their job.

May I also express my real thanks to the members of the Yes committee, to the people who worked very hard as volunteers across the province and who have done, I think, a remarkable job in conveying a positive message to the people of the province.

We have to recognize now the need to turn a page, not quite perhaps in the way that I had hoped, but nevertheless in a way that I think the people of the province will understand. We now must clearly address, together and constructively, the challenges of the future that face the 10 million citizens of this province as effectively and creatively as we can, obviously in close cooperation and partnership with our fellow Canadians and with our fellow provincial governments, and I will continue to provide that leadership to the best of my ability.

I want to say again to the House, thank you very, very much.

1400

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): I do not believe that we need to spend a great deal of time today in analysis. The message from the people of Canada last night was very clear. The people have spoken, they've listened to all sides, they've considered all the facts, and

they've told us that this constitutional package wasn't right for them.

It seems to me that the second message is equally clear: Governments must now set aside the constitutional debate and concentrate all their efforts on building a strong economy and on creating jobs.

Those of us who favoured the agreement, in all parties, sincerely believed that a Yes vote was a vote for Canada, but we recognize with equal and absolute conviction that those who voted against the agreement were not voting against Canada; they were voting against a series of constitutional amendments.

It would be simplistic and naïve, however, to claim that this vote was nothing more than a vote on constitutional issues. Anyone who has talked to an Ontario voter realizes that many who voted No were not just voting against a constitutional package; they were voting and voicing a very different concern about their future and about government's inability to come to grips with their very real concerns.

We do hear a great deal of talk these days about how angry people are, and they are angry. But they're angry because they're frustrated. They're frustrated because they feel the pain of recession. They come head to head with economic crisis every day. They have ideas about what has to be done to solve the problems, and they don't believe that government is listening to their concerns or to their ideas. They just don't believe that governments are dealing with the issues that matter most to them. When Ontarians talk about crisis, that's what they're talking about, and that's what they want their governments to deal with.

In attempting to amend the Constitution, the best efforts of governments have once again failed to meet success, and we cannot continue to devote our energies to the resolution of constitutional issues at a negotiating table. The Constitution is not the problem that is affecting people's lives every day. The economy is doing that, and the economy has to be our priority every day.

As one who supported the Yes side, I join in recognizing the verdict of the people. I congratulate, with the Premier, all who participated in this process on both sides of the issue. It was an important exercise in democracy. A great number of people were energized, people took time to become informed, people on both sides expressed a real commitment to Canada and its future, and now governments must hear what people have said.

The greatest contribution that Ontario can now make to national unity is the contribution that we have always made as the engine of economic growth. The most important thing we can do for national unity today is restore Ontario's prosperity. That is the best way to ensure the future of this province and of this country.

The Speaker: The leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly about last night's referendum result. Let me clearly join with my two colleagues, the leader of the government and Premier, and the leader of the Liberal Party, in thanking not just those with whom we worked throughout this province and in our ridings,

encouraging people to support the Charlottetown accord, but indeed all Canadians in how they conducted themselves in this referendum campaign.

Those who were working on the No side, as well as those who were working on the Yes side, if you look at virtually any other country and how they approach major decisions, I think acted maturely. I think it was a good campaign. I thank all those who took the time to analyse this referendum and to participate in one form or another in a very basic form of democracy that I think we're obviously going to need more of.

There are many messages, many meanings and many ways to interpret what happened. I don't want to rehash. I agree with much of what the Premier has said. I know academics will now debate and will write about this period in our history. I'm sure this week and next week and next month and for years to come, political strategists and tacticians will review the campaigns and the advertisements and the results from the top down and the bottom up. Pundits and media commentators will play Monday morning quarterback. That's as it should be; that's fine.

But I'm not an academic, I'm not a pollster and I'm not a political strategist. I'm not a pundit; I'm not a media commentator. I, like each of you in this chamber, am the representative of my community, and I want to share with you a fundamental result of yesterday's referendum that hasn't been expressed yet in this chamber and I think is a lesson all of us should have learned from yesterday, and if we do that, the referendum will have a positive contribution to make, not only in future constitutional discussions but in the economy as well.

I, like each of you, am a representative of my community. I'm a guy from North Bay with a mortgage and two children. I was sent here to Queen's Park to do a job. Our task is to lead, well reflecting the will of the people.

Last night was a signal to us that leadership and reflecting the will of the people must go hand in hand, cannot be separated. We, as elected representatives, must give form and substance to the decision-making process. We must make those decisions by reflecting the will of the people. Harry Truman said it rather simply. He said: "There go my people. I am their leader. Therefore I must follow them."

Nearly 14 million people went to the polls and marked a ballot yesterday, and one of the clear messages I heard was that this signals a change in the way we must conduct our politics. The brokered interests around the table came and represented their agenda very effectively. Whether it was western Senate seats or whether it was Supreme Court appointments or aboriginal self-government, the horse-trading and the negotiating and the accommodations took place. They took place in a typical Canadian, very generous, way, a positive way. By the old definition of politics, the brokered interests struck a deal. By the old definition of politics, that would have been enough, by those definitions.

But that was not reflected in the will of the people yesterday. It was not enough. Politics is changing, and our attitudes and our method of operation must change with it. This doesn't simply apply to us in this chamber; it applies to union leadership, it applies to business leadership, it

applies to all the power brokers in our society. The paternalism and the élitism of the past will not sell today.

That is one of the real messages I took from yesterday's referendum. We need more genuine reflection of the will of the people in our deliberations. We need more free votes in the Legislature. We need more recognition of the sophistication of the electorate. They knew what they were doing yesterday. They were not voting on Lyn McLeod, Mike Harris, Bob Rae, Brian Mulroney, economics, jobs; they were voting on the Charlottetown accord and they didn't like it.

I suggest to you, as something we should learn, that one of the very great lessons from yesterday is that it's not politics as usual. People are mad about certain things. The anger won't go away by ignoring it, and we need to be honest and we need to be open in our decisions.

I agree with my two colleagues. We need to get on with the fundamental economic change and job creation. This is not a new issue just discovered overnight, but there is another signal to the union élite, to the business élite, to the cultural élite, to the political élite, and it's a signal we cannot ignore. As we turn to the economy, we should, I believe, reflect on one of the real messages from yesterday and from last night. The paternalism and the élitism of the past did not sell on the Constitution and it will not sell on the economy. It won't sell in dealing with jobs. It won't sell in dealing with labour legislation. It won't sell in any of the other significant structural changes we are going to have to address.

I wanted to express this viewpoint in a real, positive way, that if we learned that from yesterday, then we will one day find a Constitution acceptable to all Canadians, and if we learn from yesterday that the politics of the past has changed, we truly then will have an opportunity, if we apply those lessons, to find the economic solutions we are looking for as well.

I congratulate all those involved. I share a number of the comments and concerns the Premier has made and others have made, but I believe if we continue to ignore one of the very strong messages from the people in yesterday's referendum, then we will have greater difficulty in the future in finding those solutions we are looking for. I ask all 130 of us in this Legislature to reflect on that and what the people told us yesterday.

1410

ORAL QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): There seems to be one continued point of unanimity, and that's in recognizing that the message we heard in yesterday's referendum was a message of getting back to the economy. Needless to say, that's where we want to turn our attention and the Premier's attention today.

In fact, it is hardly for the first time, since day after day, week after week, we have kept trying to remind this government of Ontario's reality: that in Ontario, every working day, 547 people lose their jobs, every three days a plant closes in this province and that there are 555,000

people out of work. We insist on having this government recognize that, in September, the jobless picture in every other province in this country improved except in Ontario.

Premier, it is obvious to everyone that your economic strategy is not working. You cannot meet even your very modest predictions of economic growth. I ask you today: Do you have any other policies to offer Ontarians, or is 11% unemployment the best your government can do?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The unemployment numbers are obviously not acceptable to anybody in the province or anybody in the country. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will recognize that what we are confronting, perhaps I can say to her, contrary to what she's been putting forward, is not a problem that is confined to Ontario. It's a problem and a challenge that is affecting the entire economy in the western world, in particular the economy of the North American world and in particular the economy of those parts of North America to which our exports are particularly tied and to which our job growth potential is particularly tied.

I say to the honourable member that the strategy of our encouraging investment, both public and private—the Jobs Ontario Training fund, the Jobs Ontario Youth fund, the anti-recession fund, the decreased taxes on small business, manufacturing and resource processing, the manufacturing recovery program, our determined effort not to abandon an equity agenda but to sustain an agenda for fairness, the \$3.9 billion on strategic infrastructure, the sectoral strategies that are in place as well as the \$150-million sector partnership fund, the increased capital cost allowance and the \$930 million that we are determined to place in training, which is a 25% increase in our training budget—this is the general direction which we want to take.

I can say to the honourable member that we are doing whatever we can. We're going to be working closely with business and with labour, with community groups, with everyone, to address it and we are going to continue to make this issue the very top priority for the province of Ontario.

Mrs McLeod: The Premier keeps refusing to understand that it truly is time to come home and deal with the kinds of things he can do to turn around Ontario's economy and to recognize that the list he was able to recite after having the page open in front of him doesn't offer any initiatives that are actually working. Nobody is getting back to work in this province.

The Premier publicly indicated yesterday that one of his first steps in looking at the condition of the economy, which we all agree has to be the priority, will be to go to countries in Asia to convince people that there is stability so that they can be encouraged to invest in our country.

I would say to the Premier in all sincerity that you can't reassure investors in Tokyo and in other Asian cities that Ontario is a safe place to invest their money when people here in Ontario are, day by day, losing confidence that it is in fact safe to invest here at home.

I would ask the Premier, will you not deal with the realities of this province? Will you not stay and talk to the

people in Barrie and Kitchener and Thunder Bay and Toronto, and find out from them what you can do to turn Ontario's economy around, and to say to people here at home what you will do to restore their confidence that it makes sense to do business in this province again?

Hon Mr Rae: I'm not surprised by the question. I in a sense anticipated it.

I would say to the honourable member, first of all, will I be sitting down with people in those communities? Yes, I will be. Have I been doing it? Yes, I have. Have we been responding? Yes, we have.

I'll be going to Sault Ste Marie on Thursday, and no doubt she'll be commenting on the fact that I won't be in the House at question period then. But I'm going to be sitting down with the chamber of commerce, I'm going to be sitting down with the labour movement, I'm going to be sitting down with members, and we're going to be discussing and also looking at some very practical things that we've done in terms of cogeneration, which will be creating jobs in the Sault Ste Marie community and responding to a very difficult economic situation.

I can say very directly to the member that if she's suggesting that somehow there is a conflict between our trying to improve exports, improve investment and take a broad-minded, open-minded view of the world and the responsibilities of the Premier of Ontario, I couldn't disagree with her more profoundly on that particular score. You're setting something in opposition to each other which shouldn't really exist.

Mrs McLeod: I would make it very clear to the Premier that my question was not one of questioning his presence or absence in the House. My question is directly to the Premier on what he needs to do to deal with what he recognizes as a goal; that is, to restore confidence that it makes sense to invest in this province. I'm saying to the Premier, start at home. Hear what people are telling us day after day after day about what your government is doing to destroy investor confidence in this province.

To take just one example, Mr Premier, this week, as you well know, your Labour Minister is going to bring in Bill 40 for its final reading. People across this province, Mr Premier, if we want to talk about investor confidence, are telling you very clearly that this bill is destroying confidence in Ontario as a place to invest. This bill is going to put more people out of work. Premier, if you are in fact serious about building investor confidence in this province, will you not stop this bill before it's too late?

Hon Mr Rae: The short answer to the question is no, Mr Speaker. I'll just tell her why: because we don't see any conflict. It's interesting. I've talked with the people in the province of Quebec. I've spoken to business people throughout. There's a need to create a strong partnership, a sense of working together. We gain nothing by pitting labour against management or management against labour, or by indulging in the kind of rhetoric which the Leader of the Opposition has surprisingly engaged in, which says that if we try to create a more stable labour environment in this province, somehow we're doing something that's contrary to business. What we are doing is modest, it is pro-

gressive and it is sensible, and we're going to continue on that path.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): I have a question for the Premier. I think the Premier will agree with me that one of the foundation stones for the people's confidence in their government is that the ministers who are elected to form a government are abiding by the rules and the regulations and the standards of conduct that have been established to ensure that there is no conflict of interest in the activity of any minister. In fact, the Premier himself made reference to that in the first speech from the throne of this government when he stated as follows:

"Our task is to guard against institutional arrogance and the abuse of power wherever it exists. We will set clear standards of behaviour for the conduct of ministers."

Since that time, a number of ministers and members of the government have been in trouble: the minister of highways, the member for Welland-Thorold, the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, the member for Scarborough West, the member for Sudbury East, the member for Cambridge, the member for Kitchener, and most recently, the Solicitor General when he was Minister of Correctional Services.

We have said time and again that one of the great defects in the Premier's conflict-of-interest guidelines is that the Premier sets himself up as the judge and jury of conduct. I want to ask the Premier quite directly, when the Premier violates the conflict-of-interest guidelines, who is to stand in judgement of the Premier?

1420

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Perhaps the honourable member could tell us what he's talking about.

Mr Sorbara: I'd be more than pleased to tell the Premier what I'm talking about, if I could have a page. I want to refer the Premier to section 22 of his guidelines. The section reads as follows:

"In any adjudicative or investigative process by...a provincially appointed tribunal...ministers shall not communicate on behalf of a private party in any manner in which his or her position as minister could reasonably be perceived as influencing a decision."

I'm just going to send over a copy of a piece of correspondence dated September 16 for the Premier's consideration. This letter is on the letterhead of Bob Rae, MPP. It is addressed to Mr John P. Kruger, the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board. It relates to a massive development project in the Premier's own riding, the Black Creek-Eglinton development. I'm sure the Premier will be entirely familiar with it.

It reads in part as follows:

"Dear Mr Kruger:

"I am writing in support of the request by Drena Inc"—that's the private party—"and the city of York for an expedited hearing for early October in the abovenoted matter."

It continues as follows:

"As you can appreciate, all parties, including the provincial government with its interest in the development of

a transportation mode, are concerned about the effects that any further delays may have on this development. Many of the partners involved share this concern and I hope they will be persuasive in any further discussions that you may have on this question. Your consideration of this request would be appreciated."

The letter is signed by Tony Romano, executive assistant to the Premier of Ontario. I ask the Premier once again, does this, in his mind, represent a violation of section 22, which clearly states that no minister, and presumably minister's staff, ought to communicate with tribunals and try to persuade them in any decision which is before them? Could we have just a clear yes or no from the Premier on that matter?

Hon Mr Rae: The member has given me this letter which is over the signature of Mr Romano, who's my executive assistant. It's the first I've seen of the letter. Let me just say to the honourable member that it's no secret this is a project which the government of Ontario, the government of the city of York, the Ministry of Transportation and other ministries have been directly involved in negotiating. What Mr Romano is writing to ask is that the OMB deal with this issue in a way that's as soon as possible.

I am reliably informed that an inquiry of this kind is not unusual, but I would say to the honourable member that to suggest that somehow a conflict—

Interjections.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Inquiry.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: No, no. Mr Speaker, let me deal directly with this. To suggest somehow that there is any kind of conflict involving me, involving me as a minister or me as Premier, on the basis of this letter is, I think, most unfair. It casts an aspersion which is quite unjustified and quite unfair, and I regret very much that that's the kind of inference the member is seeking to draw with respect to me. I regret that he would choose to put his question in that particular light and to put his question in that particular manner. I regret very much that he's chosen to act in that way because I think he's really being most unfair in this regard.

Mr Sorbara: I have no comment to make on the proposal. I have no comment to make on whether or not it is a good idea to develop those lands. I have no comment on who the Premier chooses to speak on his behalf as his executive assistant and to write letters over his letterhead and to advocate in front of a tribunal.

I simply tell the Premier this: There is a set of guidelines the Premier himself proposed to govern the conduct of his ministers. One of the massive defects in those guidelines is that the Premier stands as judge and jury, apparently now even when he and his office are the perpetrators of the wrongdoing.

When it was the corrections minister, we got rid of a deputy minister for a while. When it was the former Solicitor General, who never saw the letter, who never signed the letter, it was some staff member who was dismissed. In other cases, it was just an unavoidable error.

It is not being unfair to ask the Premier who it is that is going to make a judgement as to whether or not this letter,

interfering or advocating in front of the tribunal, in clear violation of the conflict-of-interest guidelines, will be determined in some closed quarters with Ross McClellan and a few other of the political spin doctors or whether he is going to put this matter as to whether or not a violation occurred and what should be done if a violation occurred to a committee of this Legislature or to the conflict-of-interest committee, or who is it that is going to stand in judgement? I say to you, Mr Premier—

The Speaker: Could the member conclude his question, please.

Mr Sorbara: I say to the Premier that on the face of it, clearly the guidelines have been violated. There couldn't be a clearer violation of the guidelines if the Premier had signed the letter himself, and I'm asking him, who is going to stand in judgement on this matter?

Hon Mr Rae: Look, this is a project which this government—

Mr Sorbara: It's a big project.

Hon Mr Rae: No, no. Don't play around.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: Don't play around, my friends.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: You're trying to turn this—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: I find it ironic, and maybe other members will understand this. The member's leader stands up and asks her first three questions, saying, "Why don't you do more about ensuring that we have job creation in the province of Ontario? Get things moving," she says, "Get things going." An executive assistant in my constituency office, when we understand—let's read the letter:

"I understand that the application has met all the board's priorities for an expedited hearing date and that the appellant has also indicated their agreement to this request. The people who are"—everyone—

Mr Sorbara: The appellant has not agreed to it.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: Now the member's taking a stand. He's against the project.

The Speaker: Could the Premier take his seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: An expedited hearing request, quite bluntly, has nothing to do with the adjudication. It has nothing to do with requesting special treatment with respect to the outcome of the inquiry or anything of that kind.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): It's called jumping the list, Bob; it's called butting in.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mr Rae: You have here a situation where people are agreed that a project needs to go ahead, a project which

is supported by the government of Ontario. We're on record. I was at the signing ceremony. So were other ministers at the signing ceremony. There's no secret about that. There's absolutely no secret about that.

I want to say again to the honourable member: This is an issue about jobs. I find the questioning from the opposition totally contradictory. To try to turn this into some kind of a personal conflict on the part of the member, I think has really missed the mark, and I must say, even after knowing the member for as long as I have, I am really surprised by the kind of comments he's made.

1430

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Now we have the 8th or 9th or 10th example that we have absolutely no guidelines, that it's just "Do whatever you wish to do," and another confirmation again today that as long as Bob Rae is Premier and this party's in power, the guidelines mean nothing.

The Speaker: Is the question to the Premier?

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I would like to ask a question of the man who plans to stay on as Premier in spite of the guidelines. Last night we, as political leaders, realized we did not share the view of all Ontarians. Leadership obviously does not always reflect the views of membership. I suggested earlier today that we should learn a lesson from that experience.

Today, as we turn our attention to the economy, Premier, I suggest to you that by listening to the élite of the labour movement, not the union worker, you're in danger of making the same mistake on Bill 40. I would ask you if you have learned any lesson from yesterday, learned the lesson of Charlottetown. Will you scrap Bill 40, as the union membership and the public are asking you to do?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): It's great to be back. I want to congratulate the member for, if nothing else, his ingenuity. He managed to turn what was a solemn day yesterday with respect to the Charlottetown accord and interpret its results as a referendum on Bill 40 in Ontario. That almost defies comment. But let me say this to the honourable member: To seek to use the results of the referendum, which were, as I said, results where more than half the people in the province—not by a wide margin; by a narrow margin—supported the referendum, to try to draw from that any conclusion with respect to particular pieces of policy, New Democrat, Conservative or Liberal, I think is a major mistake. He himself said it in what I think was one of his finer moments when he spoke in the House a little earlier, that this is not about the economy, this is not about any other subject; this is about the Charlottetown accord.

I say to the honourable member, if you're opposed to Bill 40, that's fine, but don't try to use yesterday's referendum as a way of crowbarring your way into the debate on that particular subject. It's unworthy of you.

Mr Harris: I really regret that the Premier hasn't learned one of the lessons of yesterday. You've not learned one of the lessons about the élite, about the deal makers,

about what the public thought of that. You have not learned that. If ever there was an example of deal making now as we deal with the economy, if ever there was an example of power brokers, it's Bill 40.

Premier, 89% of union members tell you they want a secret ballot vote. Bob White doesn't tell you that; it's not in the best interests of the union bosses. Pandering to what Bob White and Leo Gerard want rides roughshod over the rights of workers.

Premier, I suggest to you today that you are destroying Ontario for the sake of a payback to the big union bosses and nothing more. Last night, you accepted the will of the people on the Constitution. Will you do the same on this fundamental economic issue? Will you give union members the democratic right to a secret ballot vote, as 89% of them say they want?

Hon Mr Rae: I think the record will show that the process in terms of labour relations in this province has always been based on a set of discussions, a set of debates and a set of balances which every government tries to find.

I think the balance we've found and struck is a reasonable one. It's one to which the response, if I may say so, has been quite exaggerated and over the mark. I would say to the honourable member again that to try to turn the referendum process on the Constitution into a suggestion that what we are doing here is somehow against the interests of the province is quite unfair.

I must say that I'm not flummoxed by it, but I do find it strange that the member would be trying to interpret the results of the referendum as indicating support for any particular ideological position or party position or non-ideological position or pragmatic position with respect to any particular item.

Mr Harris: Apparently, the Premier can't quite understand what I'm telling him. Yesterday was a lesson in democracy for the élite: the political élite, the union élite, the business élite. It was a lesson in democracy; 89% of union members are asking you now for democracy, not a cooked-up deal between the Premier and the élite of the unions. Will you give them that democratic right that 89% of them want, not the cooked-up deal of Bill 40? Will you do that?

Hon Mr Rae: We've made a number of amendments to Bill 40 and to the proposals for labour relations in response to a number of requests that have come in, and we've tried to work as hard as we can to strike a reasonable balance.

Mr Harris: Premier, this is the opportunity here to listen to workers, to listen to card-carrying union members instead of Bob White, and you are blowing that.

INVESTMENT IN ONTARIO

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My second question is to the Premier as well. I understand you'll be leaving for a 16-day tour of the Far East beginning on November 5. I can only assume, given your commitments of last evening to creating jobs and rebuilding the economy, that you believe spending 16 days out of province is the best way to do that. Premier, before you go abroad to

sell Ontario, don't you think you'd better stay home and clean up your own economic backyard first?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): One of the realities of our time is that whenever a minister or a Premier either goes to Europe or goes to Asia—which I've done a couple of times now, trips to Europe and trips to Asia—the line is that this is somehow a luxury cruise on which public business is somehow less important than it is.

I happen to think that in terms of where we're at now, in terms of international reaction to the referendum, to which I would have thought the member would be sensitive, this trip has been planned for some time. It is very much part of the economic agenda of this government to be open to international markets, to be open to what's going on around the world, and I will continue to do that.

If the member sees any partisan advantage in bashing either dealing with the Europeans or dealing with Asians or dealing with Latin America or dealing with those international companies, I will say to the member that I disagree. This trip has been planned for some time. It comes at a sensitive time, in terms of a conclusion of the referendum debate. I think it's necessary to do and it's necessary to go, and I plan on proceeding.

I will also be meeting with a number of groups and people in the days and weeks ahead, and I will continue to do that. I don't think anything is gained by saying that somehow if you talk to businesses in Japan—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —companies that have very substantial investments here, Toyota and Honda, companies that are considering expansions here in many cases, companies that have a deep interest in what's going on in the North American economy. I just repeat, simply putting one's head in the sand and pretending that the rest of the world isn't there is not a realistic way for Ontario in 1992 to be proceeding. It just doesn't make any sense.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Why don't you just talk to Ed? He'll tell you—

The Speaker: Order. The member for Oriole, please come to order. The leader of the third party with his supplementary.

Mr Harris: Once again, Premier, I think you've missed the point of the question. I didn't say, "Don't go." I said, at this time, what is it that you plan to take with you? What are you going to tell other countries about what you've been doing for the past two years? Do you intend to tell them you've created a climate in Ontario where 500 jobs a day are lost? Do you intend to boast about your \$12-billion deficit? Will you be carrying copies of your newly minted labour law? What kind of investment pitch do you think you can make with the most repressive taxation, the most repressive legislation, the most repressive job- and investment-killing labour legislation in North America under your belt?

I'm telling you, you can sell Ontario better if they never see you, so you don't remind them of that. Let's stay home and clean up our own front yard and backyard first.

1440

Hon Mr Rae: Again, it really is a joy to be back in this place.

The honourable member talks about taxes. Well, it's because of the kind of misinformation that the leader of the third party puts about. Let me tell him, I'm going to be telling them that in terms of taxes, on the effective combined federal-provincial/state manufacturing income tax rates, we are 38.3 in 1992, going down to 36.3 in 1993 and 35.3 in 1994. That compares with 40.3 in Massachusetts, 39.9 in New York, 39.9 in Ohio, 38 in Tennessee and 37 in Texas. So I'll tell the honourable member, somebody's got to go over there and tell them not to believe the kind of hoovey and guff they're hearing from the opposition spokesman in this Legislature.

Mr Harris: There has been only one person over there speaking to them, and that is your Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, Ed Philip. If they're getting any hoovey, they're getting it from him.

Premier, I assume one of the reasons you're going to the Far East is because these are countries that have money to invest. They are well-managed economies.

Interjection.

The Speaker: The member for Oriole, please come to order.

Mr Harris: They place value in their education systems. They place value in their young people. They are advancing their training programs. They've built constructive relationships between business, government and labour. Premier, these are all things you've refused to do. How can you possibly believe that you will have credibility in these countries, that you will have any sense of credibility, until we get our own act together here in Ontario?

Would you not agree with me that if we could get business and labour truly together here in Ontario, if we could get on with training our young people, giving them the skills they're going to require, that would be more important than going over there now with your labour legislation sticking out of one breast pocket and your \$12-billion deficit and very poorly managed economy sticking out of the other breast pocket?

Hon Mr Rae: I'm delighted, again, to answer the question very directly, because I really think the member has been providing the House and indeed the public with a very wrong impression about the advantages of doing business in the province of Ontario. I don't think it's a wise approach to do that; I don't think it's helpful or constructive. But if he chooses to be that way, that's fine.

Let's look at our health care tax rates. Our health care tax rates are at 1.95 in Ontario. They are at 8.3 in Illinois, 8.3 in Massachusetts and right across the board. Similarly, on social securities and pensions: 2.3 in Ontario, and 7.65.

In terms of the cost of health, it costs C\$3,000 per employee less than American companies for comparable health coverage. If you want to talk about training, we're putting 25% more money into training in this province than ever before in the history of Ontario, nearly \$1 billion.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Where is the legislation? I've been waiting a year for that legislation.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mr Rae: The training legislation is coming under way, and so is OTAB. It's precisely to talk about these developments.

I can tell the honourable member that the business leaders I talk to in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan have a much more positive and realistic view about what's going in this country and in this province and what's happening in other places around the world than the kind of partisan bickering we hear from the leader of the third party when it comes to debates about the economy of Ontario. And that's precisely why these issues are so important.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I have a question for the Premier. It concerns another area that requires the government to pay attention and take some real and meaningful action in.

Premier, the question is to do with education. You will know that at the end of last week newspaper articles appeared about a 32-page confidential government document setting out a purported new curriculum for Ontario schools. The response to this document demonstrates both a widespread concern over its vagueness and the lack of a full and public debate of where we're going in Ontario's education.

The questions which parents in particular have and want your answer to are: How will you ensure that Ontario students are being taught a core curriculum that is relevant? How will you ensure that educational standards across the province are similar? Finally, how will you ensure that there is in place a method of evaluation, of assessment, that is meaningful and explicable to parents, students and teachers alike? They want your answer, Premier.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): In all fairness, I think I should give the Minister of Education a chance to reply to this question.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I would like to say first of all that the member opposite is correct when he refers to the leaked document, which I actually haven't seen but I gather was a very early version of a draft of the common core curriculum that would be sent out to all schools. He's quite correct when he says that it was vague, because in fact it was a very early draft. In the more recent drafts that I have been looking at, in fact we're trying to be, and we are going to be, much more specific than in the version that he may or may not have seen.

As he fully well knows, as part of this process of re-vamping the curriculum, we very much want to establish a curriculum that is much more relevant to young people, that has in place a form of evaluation that starts from establishing some very clear standards and then also provides some clear direction and assistance to our teachers in terms of how they're going to evaluate the kind of progress the students are making towards achieving.

These are all issues we are working on very hard. They're issues that in fact the member opposite should very well know, because indeed it was his government that began this process. But rather than continuing the process for another couple of years of discussion, we've chosen to try to begin to act and to try to get some of this information to the schools this year, and to begin the implementation process now.

Mr Beer: Again, I think the issue, particularly for parents but indeed for all of those who are involved in the educational system, is, what will be those standards and what specifically will be that core curriculum?

Your colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities, together with the community colleges, has taken from the Vision 2000 statement the decision that there can be standardized curriculum at the community college level. Are you saying today, in acknowledging that you weren't aware of this leaked document, that you have seen some further documents; that in effect what will emerge from all of this discussion will be a statement of a clear core curriculum based on well-articulated standards? Will that have a full public debate, so we'll know that the educational system for our young people is one that will have those clear standards, that clear curriculum and clear evaluation? Is that what you're committing to, Minister?

Hon Mr Silipo: The member opposite has asked the question as if he's getting me to admit something that is going to be a surprise. That's exactly what I've been talking about for all these many months, and that's exactly the direction that we are pursuing.

We believe it's possible and necessary to establish for our school system some very clear sets of expectations of outcome and that we can set those in a very clear way; that we can over a period of time establish a set of clear criteria, a set of clear standards; that that's different from standardized testing and that, quite frankly, is different from telling teachers how to teach; that we can leave a lot of flexibility in the hands of the professionals around how they deliver, but we can do that within a very clear direction that says, "These are the things that students at various points in their education should be able to achieve," and that this can be done in a way that's understood by teachers as well as parents.

That's the direction we're pursuing, because we believe very much that this can be done and needs to be done.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a question for the Premier related to the concerns of the policemen and policewomen across this province and the new use-of-force regulations brought in by his government. Hopefully he will respond, because certainly the policemen and policewomen I've talked to feel that he is the only one in this government who can effectively deal with their concerns.

My leader and I met with representatives of the Metro association this morning. They strongly believe that their concerns are health and safety related and public safety

related. They believe this, as do officers right across this province. I think that will be clearly indicated tomorrow.

I'm wondering if you and your government are prepared to review these regulations. I suggested to the Deputy Premier a couple of weeks ago perhaps through the justice committee, but it could be done through a select committee equally represented by members of the opposition and the government. If that's not acceptable to your government, perhaps you could look at some sort of blue ribbon citizens' committee where the police would have input into the selection of a chair and would be adequately represented.

The reality is that although a committee did look at these use-of-force regulations, it did not reflect the feelings and the views of policemen and policewomen who are out there on the beat every day and are very much concerned about the impact this is going to have not only on them and their safety but on public safety as well.

1450

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I thank the member for his question. I don't know what he told the members of the police association about his own views with respect to the job action, and I would appreciate hearing that at some point, but I'd say to the honourable member that the offer I made directly to Mr Lymer on Sunday afternoon, where I told him that I would be quite happy, in company with the Solicitor General, who I think in the face of a very difficult set of issues has done extremely well in representing the interests of the public—I would say to you, sir, and say to the members of the police force of the province, we support very strongly the police officers and the work they do. We understand very clearly the situation they are facing.

I want to say, however, to the honourable member that I continue to be troubled by police unions indicating that there are some things that police officers should do and other things that they shouldn't do, some laws that they should enforce and other laws that they shouldn't enforce, on an issue in which the government has indicated it is certainly prepared, I indicated to Mr Lymer on Sunday, to have a discussion. We are certainly prepared to have a dialogue. We are prepared to have a very productive discussion.

The offer that I made is very clear: Suspend the job action for 48 hours. We will sit down and discuss in those terms. That offer is a reasonable offer. It remains in place. I do not think that what I'm asking, in the circumstances, is unreasonable. I think it's a fair offer, and I would hope that the honourable member would think about it as he reflects on his next question.

Mr Runciman: I regret that the Premier is continually, starting yesterday on television and now in this House today, referring to police unions. This is a police association. He's using that terminology for political purposes because of the public concern about the perception that he is kowtowing to big union bosses across this province.

This is an association of men and women right across this province. We're not talking just about the Metro association. You saw the response of the public in the Sky-

Dome in respect to the police yesterday versus the response you got to your speech, Premier, and I want to say that they have legitimate concerns. They're not just in the Metro association; they're right across this province. They're average citizens right across this province who are concerned about their safety and the way in which you are dealing with policemen and women.

I asked you a question in respect to achieving a resolution of this by establishing a committee to take a look at police concerns, a committee that would have equal representation from the opposition and the government, or a citizens committee where the policemen and women, rank-and-file officers, would have input into the makeup of that committee. Why won't you do that?

Hon Mr Rae: I don't know whether the member is acting as a spokesman on behalf of the police association or if he's trying to bargain on its behalf. I would say to him very clearly that I've indicated to Mr Lymer: "I will sit down face to face with you for a period and discuss what it is that's on your mind, and I will tell you the concerns the government has, together with the Solicitor General. I am perfectly prepared to do that. I have no hesitation in doing that. We can discuss any of the proposals such as you have made and such as have been made by the honourable member, any suggestion coming forward." It will be a very frank and candid discussion on all sides, I'm sure.

All I'm asking in return is that police officers and the police association, the police union—I don't use the word "union" in a pejorative sense, never have and don't intend to; a police union is what it is—indicate that the job action is coming to an end, as a gesture of good faith and as a sign that we're working together.

I am troubled and I continue to be troubled, and I would hope the member—he doesn't have to say it publicly but perhaps in his private moments—would wonder whether it's really wise for police unions to be telling their members which laws they think they should enforce and which laws they think they shouldn't enforce because they're unhappy with one particular government action or another. That is a concern we have to have. It sets a very difficult precedent for the province.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRES

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. Madam Minister, as you are well aware, community information centres are especially important during tough economic times. More and more people who are out of work, looking for work, looking for places—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Would the member take his seat.

Interjections.

Mr Farnan: My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. Madam Minister, as you are well aware, community information centres are especially important during tough economic times. More and more people who are out of work, looking for work, looking for

places and seeking food, shelter and basic human services are turning to CICs for their answers.

Not all CICs are supported by government. In fact, the CIC in Cambridge gets no funding for its operations. Surely in times like these, CICs deserve government support. In fact, all CICs require government support, now more than ever. Do you plan to pull the plug on CICs this December?

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): The member is correct; the government does support 56 out of the 75 CICs. The ministry is very aware of how hard the CIC people work and how important they are to the community. In turn, we have recognized their importance. We did a review recently called the review of public access to government human services information project. It told us how important the CICs are to the community. It told us how effective they are to the community. The review has been very helpful to us, and we hope to continue to look at CICs and their situations.

Mr Farnan: I'm not sure if the CICs want to be told how important they are to us. They want the funds.

The minister has not answered my question. Again, I ask the minister, will the CICs currently—

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Don't be so tough.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Farnan: Will the CICs currently receiving government support continue to be funded in the new year, and will those CICs struggling without government support be included in the funding program for the new year?

Hon Mrs Haslam: I think every member in this House does know how important CICs are, but I think every member in this House also knows the fiscal realities we are facing and the situation regarding funding of all sorts of organizations within Ontario.

We are continuing to work on a solution of funding of these centres. We know it's not going to be very easy, but I would like to assure the member—in fact, I would like to assure all the members—that the staff at the ministry are working very hard, not only with fellow ministries but also with central agencies, to try to come to a long-term solution to this difficult option of funding to the CICs. We will continue to work on this solution until we find one.

1500

REPORT ON VICTIMS OF ABUSE

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): As it involves two or three of the ministers, my question is for the Premier. The actions of this government continue to astound us. On Thursday there was unanimous agreement in this chamber from all members of the House that the injustice done to the Grandview victims must be corrected. Yet your government has taken action in completely the opposite direction. You've obtained a court injunction which prevents the release, as ordered by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, of a crucial report from 1976.

When asked by my leader last Thursday why your government was suppressing the release of this report, the answers were less than appropriate and certainly not com-

forting. I would like to ask again why you are suppressing the release of this report.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'll refer that question to the Attorney General.

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Just on a couple of points that were in the question, we are not suppressing a report. As the member well knows, a number of events happened in the 1970s at the Grandview centre. Those events are under investigation by a joint investigation force of the Ontario Provincial Police and the Kitchener-Waterloo regional police services. The police forces that are conducting that investigation have very specifically asked that we not release part of the 1976 report because they believe that release of that information could jeopardize the ongoing criminal investigation and could also jeopardize any criminal procedures that might result from that investigation.

Let me be clear to the member: It is two police forces that have very specifically pointed out to the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of the Attorney General that if we do release that information, it could jeopardize the ongoing criminal investigation and any criminal procedures that might result from that investigation.

Mrs O'Neill: The Information and Privacy Commissioner knows this case well, and he has assured the public that the release of this report, in its edited form particularly—and it is much edited—would not endanger the victims and certainly would not endanger the current investigation. You know those findings well, Mr Attorney General. The result of the 1976 report, however, will likely confirm many of the allegations of the victims.

May I remind the government that when the concern about the treatment of the Grandview victims first arose in 1968, the NDP claimed that:

"The program at Grandview was dehumanizing and inhumane and the girls were treated like rats in a maze. We all know that the Grandview survivors are real people with real needs. Their spirits and their sense of hope have been buried for a long, long time, their potential and their future seriously hindered." These are NDP words from 1969.

Mr Attorney General, why are you engaging in this coverup of this important, edited report? How can you claim credibility when you say that you really care about these survivors who have already been suffering for more than 20 years?

Hon Mr Hampton: Mr Speaker, in the spirit of public debate, you'll excuse me if I take offence when words like "coverup" are thrown around loosely. I believe that everybody in this House is concerned about all of the issues that might impact on, involve or in any way affect the alleged victims who, at one time or another, may have been at the Grandview centre. I also believe that the Ontario Provincial Police and the Waterloo Regional Police services are concerned about any impacts there might be on those alleged victims.

I am just a little bit concerned when a member raises the issue of coverup. I know of no grounds why the OPP might want to engage in a coverup. I know of no grounds

why the Waterloo Regional Police services might want to engage in a coverup.

If the member opposite is going to use the word "coverup," I think it behooves her to produce some information that indicates that there is a coverup. If she has some information, she should turn that over to Commissioner O'Grady of the Ontario Provincial Police, who, I believe, will be very interested in any information she has.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the Premier. Mr Premier, I'd like to read to you section 22 of your conflict-of-interest guidelines. It states that ministers should not attempt to influence a decision "in any adjudicative or investigative process by...a provincially appointed tribunal."

The Ontario Municipal Board is a quasi-judicial board appointed by the government. Development applications are made to the Ontario Municipal Board, and its hearing dates are of much negotiation and sought after by developers and so on.

My question to the Premier is: How is it that you can say that a letter directed to Mr John Kruger, chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board, asking that a development in your riding, supported by your government, should jump the queue, butt in line and get ahead of all those other developments that have waited patiently to be heard by the Ontario Municipal Board—how can you tell this House that that letter is not in fact contrary to the guidelines you set down, in section 22 specifically, where you didn't try to influence a provincially appointed tribunal?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I appreciate the question, and I would say to the honourable member again: Let's look at the facts as I understand them. I hope you will appreciate that in the context of the debate in this House I get a letter which I've never seen before, it's put before me and I have to try to respond to it as best I can.

The response I'm giving you is that the response is over the signature of the executive assistant in my constituency office. This is a project which, as I said, has the full support of the Ministry of Transportation, has the full support of the GTA, has the full support of all the ministries and now has the full support of the city of York. It obviously is a project in which there's considerable public interest.

What my executive assistant is asking is whether or not it's possible for this process to proceed in a way that does not delay the impacts with respect to jobs and other issues.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): And you think that special request for special treatment is in compliance with your guidelines, is that it?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The member for Oriole.

Hon Mr Rae: He's not attempting to affect the outcome of the proceeding. He's not saying, "Please approve this project."

Mrs Caplan: You have no standards.

The Speaker: The member for Oriole, please come to order.

Hon Mr Rae: He's not saying, "The Premier told me to write to you to say, 'Approve this project.'" That's the implication of your question. That's the implication of the question opposite.

The Speaker: Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: "The Premier stands to benefit personally by this." That's the implication of raising it under the aegis of conflict of interest.

Let's be fair about this. An executive assistant with respect to a public project—

The Speaker: Would the Premier please conclude his response.

Hon Mr Rae: —who has the full support of government is asking that a hearing date be set. That's what an executive assistant is doing. I don't regard that as any kind of interference—

The Speaker: Would the Premier please take his seat. Would the Premier please take his seat.

Supplementary?

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, my supplementary is to the Premier. Mr Premier, where was the benefit to Mike Farnan when his staff wrote the letter to the justice of the peace? There was no benefit.

Mr Premier, I didn't ask you who supported the project; I just asked you how you interpret section 22 of your conflict-of-interest guidelines. I didn't write them; the Conservatives didn't write them; the Liberals didn't write them. Sir, you wrote them and you said that no minister can influence a decision in any adjudicative or investigative process.

1510

Mr Premier, the OMB is a quasi-judicial board. I say to you, hearing dates at the OMB are much sought after. I ask you, what is the difference between what your executive assistant did and what the executive assistant to Mike Farnan did, whom you fired?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me answer very directly and say to the honourable member, that to suggest for example, that if members of the constituency office staff make inquiries to the WCB about a hearing date, is that now to be regarded as a conflict?

Interjections.

Hon Mr Rae: No. no. I want to know. Or if there's correspondence from any of you—

The Speaker: Order. Would the Premier take his seat for a moment, please.

Mr Stockwell: You wrote the guidelines; I didn't.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I ask the House to come to order.

Mr Stockwell: It represents millions of dollars when you are heard. It costs millions of dollars to wait for a hearing date. You know it.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West posed a question. If he would like a response, I would ask him to allow the Premier the opportunity to respond.

Hon Mr Rae: I think I've responded as best I can, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I wish to bring to your attention subsection 45(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act and would ask that the Speaker reconsider what I understand is a ruling he has made which I believe he may have made in haste and without due consideration for the privileges of members of this House.

It has come to my attention that tomorrow, in the process of democracy in this province, we will be visited by several constituents who are police officers in this province. I have been led to believe, Mr Speaker, that you have ruled that a police officer who by circumstances of his daily activities may be wearing his uniform will be barred from this building under all circumstances.

Mr Speaker, I was further informed that you made that decision couched in a decision you made on October 17, 1991, a ruling which you are no doubt familiar with and which I have in front of me. You indicated at that time that this was the first time in Ontario that such a ruling had been made. Without quoting at length from that ruling, it speaks at length about where the privileges of a member may be disrupted by a police officer while on duty in the process of interrogating or investigating or executing a warrant.

Tomorrow is a normal day at Queen's Park. Tomorrow, constituents will be visiting this assembly to participate in a peaceful demonstration. As is the wont of many of our constituents, some may wish to enter the building in order to talk to their elected representatives.

There are many precedents where people in natural uniform, their vocational uniform, that manner of dress which they wear on a daily basis, have been allowed into this building. I suggest to you that the Liberals had the capacity to allow in doctors and nurses in this province when there was a demonstration regarding balanced billing; that the Premier, in his former capacity, was quick to run to the front door and say to injured workers, with their outward appearance, whether it be a prosthetic device or a crutch, that those injured workers had the right to be in this building.

Mr Speaker, I believe your decision was made in haste and is not consistent with the concerns you raised in your previous ruling. I ask not only on behalf of my constituents who are planning to attend tomorrow, but on behalf of all members of this House whose constituents wish to travel at great length to visit their elected representatives tomorrow. I believe, sir, your decision may have been rather harsh. When we invite our constituents to enter this building, the issue is not whether they are dressed in a uniform, whether they be an ambulance worker, a doctor or a day care worker, but rather that we vouch for their conduct and can assure members of this House that our peace officers in this province are just that and that their business tomorrow

is to talk to us and not to cause disruption for the chamber, which they respect. I ask you to review that ruling, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Burlington South—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On the same point—

The Speaker: On the same point of order?

Mr Elston: Yes, Mr Speaker. The honourable member for Burlington South was kind enough to advise me that he was going to stand on this point, and I must in the strongest possible terms support his inquiry of you as to, perhaps, a change in your ruling.

It is my opinion that, in any event, as long as a person is to be visiting this place at the invitation of a member or even on his own account for peaceful purposes, whether it be to move from place to place in the building for the purpose of informing the members of this assembly of a public interest issue, you cannot prevent them from coming into this place without breaching our privileges. It seems to me that even more so attains if in fact there has been an invitation issued by the members for people to visit with them in their particular offices.

I know, Mr Speaker, that you would not have wanted to have that happen in the case of your own situation when you were a private member in this place. You probably would have spoken out very strongly indeed against a prohibition of individuals, either from your constituency or even people who had come from other constituencies, dropping in to tell you about their points of view on particular interests that they had in regard to public business.

Even in the days when I was a minister and was responsible for some issues of interest and of controversy, it was never intended nor was it ever extended through my offices that the people be prevented from coming and making their points to the opposition, on this side of the House in those days, or indeed even to our own members of the government caucus at that time, because I realized that only with a full and frank discussion among the various interested parties could we hope to come to some kind of a conclusion and a consensus with respect to public issues.

I agree with the member for Burlington South that it would be a very unhappy day when the Speaker took it upon himself to make a ruling that prevented people from peacefully visiting members in the assembly buildings, whether they were dressed in uniform or whether they were not dressed in the uniform of their undertakings.

Mr Speaker, I ask you again, in concert with the member for Burlington South, not to put an embargo upon the visit of police officers to this building just because there is an apparent day of demonstration outside about what is viewed to be a negative public decision by the Premier of the province. I ask you, Mr Speaker, please let them in.

The Speaker: On the same point, the government House leader.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): The point I was going to make is that I believe this matter has come up in the Legislature before and previous Speakers have had to deal with this matter before. In fact, if memory serves me correctly, Speaker Edighoffer had to deal with it

and Speaker Stokes had to deal with it. In terms of demonstrators, when there's a demonstration going on in front of the Legislature, there has been the question of who has access to the Legislature.

The only suggestion I have, as one member of the Legislature, is that whether they're ambulance workers, whether they're demonstrators who are injured workers or whoever the demonstrators are, the same rules should apply to those folks that apply to police officers, and any ruling you make tomorrow will have to be applied to all demonstrators in the future.

1520

The Speaker: To the three members who have spoken: First, in particular to the member for Burlington South who originally made the point, what the member raises is a security issue. The member will know that we have guidelines with respect to security. I would be very pleased to meet with the member for Burlington South and the member for Bruce at their earliest convenience, which would be within the hour, in my office to discuss this further.

I must say that the ruling to which the member for Burlington South alludes is not at question here and never was. That particular ruling has to do with the privileges of members and the possibility of a surprise visit by police officers in discharging their duties. Of course, that ruling deals strictly with that and does not deal with demonstrations.

The matter which he brings to my attention is one that members on other occasions have brought to my attention with respect to demonstrations and what special accommodations can be made on a case-by-case basis. That's the way I've always attempted to deal with them and I'm more than happy to review the particular situation which we may or may not find tomorrow.

In that regard, as I mentioned, I extend an invitation to both the member for Bruce and the member for Burlington South. If they would like to see me in my office within the hour, I'd be more than delighted to try and handle their concerns so that no member feels that somehow the privileges of the members have been abused or, indeed, that the public expression of demonstration is hampered in any way, shape or form.

MOTIONS

CONSIDERATION OF BILL Pr70

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):

I move that standing order 87 respecting notice of committee hearings be suspended for the consideration of Bill Pr70 by the standing committee on regulations and private bills on Wednesday, October 28, 1992.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

PETITIONS

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have a petition signed by over 3,000 people from York, Durham and Peel to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Interim Waste Authority has released a list of 57 proposed sites in the regions of York, Durham and Peel as possible candidates for landfill; and

"Whereas the decision to prohibit the regions of the greater Toronto area from searching for landfill sites beyond their boundaries is contrary to the intent of the Environmental Assessment Act, section 5(3); and

"Whereas the government has promised each person in Ontario the right to a full environmental assessment, including the right to a review of all options as it pertains to waste disposal in Ontario,

"We, the undersigned, protest and petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario repeal Bill 143 in its entirety and allow a more democratic process for the consideration of future options for the disposal of greater Toronto area waste, particularly the consideration of disposal sites beyond the boundaries of the greater Toronto area where a 'willing host' community exists who is interested in developing new disposal systems for the greater Toronto area waste."

I have affixed my signature to this petition and agree with it wholeheartedly.

GAMBLING

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I'd like to again bring this petition to the House, representing nearly 100 residents from Unionville and Bowmanville and Lindsay, Ontario. It says:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has traditionally had a commitment to family life and quality of life for all the citizens of all Ontario; and

"Whereas families are made more emotionally and economically vulnerable by the operation of various gaming and gambling ventures; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has had a historical concern for the poor in society, who are particularly at risk each time the practice of gambling is expanded; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party has in the past vociferously opposed the raising of moneys for the state through gambling; and

"Whereas the citizens of Ontario have not been consulted regarding the introduction of legalized gambling casinos despite the fact that such a decision is a significant change of government policy and was never part of the mandate given to the government by the people of Ontario,

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government immediately cease all moves to establish gambling casinos by regulation and that appropriate legislation be introduced into the assembly, along with a process which includes significant opportunities for public consultation and full public hearings as a means of allowing the citizens of Ontario to express themselves on this new and questionable initiative."

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I have a petition signed by 146 people from North Bay and area which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The Ministry of Education has made evolutionism a compulsory core unit in senior OAC history and science. The origin of life is a completed act. Therefore, neither evolutionism nor creationism can be proven or disproven empirically.

"In fairness to all parents and students, equal time should be given in presenting the underlying assumptions of each. Through the two-model approach, the skills of critical thinking, such as recognition of bias, awareness of society's influence on one's bias and the awareness of assumptions, can allow students to examine their own belief system and better appreciate an opposing view. These skills should be incorporated into all textbooks approved in Circular 14, dealing with the question of origins."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act reflect the fact that more women, more members of visible minorities and more part-time employees are in the workforce today than ever before; and

"Whereas these workers deserve the same access to the right to join together and bargain collectively as workers have had in the past under the existing act, which has tended to serve workers in large industrial centres; and

"Whereas the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act will bring about greater worker participation and reduce conflict and confrontation in labour-management relations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government and all the members of the Legislature effect speedy passage of changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act so as to promote better labour-management relations and to provide women, visible minorities and part-time workers with the same rights as other workers have under the act."

I have affixed my name thereto.

COUNTY RESTRUCTURING

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I have a petition here that's signed by 477 people.

"Whereas the Minister of Municipal Affairs has seen fit to ignore the council of the township of Tiny and their plea for reconsideration of boundary line changes within the municipality; and

"Whereas the minister has stated that restructuring within the county of Simcoe will be implemented,

"Now therefore the taxpayers of the township of Tiny find it necessary to band together and lobby against the implementation of the restructuring of the county of Simcoe.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to refrain from passing the County of Simcoe Act until the provincial government deals with the township of Tiny in a fair and equitable manner."

I have affixed my name to that.

STABLE FUNDING

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I have a petition here signed by a number of farmers from rural Ontario, from the Tilbury area, people like Tom McKeon, Ernie McKeon, Eugene Marchand, Jim Peltier, and also Mike Schneider from the Chatham area.

What they're opposed to is that two thirds of the farmers in Ontario do not even belong to any of the farm organizations. They are asking that the proposal for stable funding that is being presented to the Minister of Agriculture and Food be stopped or allow a democratic vote of the farmers to choose whether to belong to the farm organization or not.

1530

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto will result in increased business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine economic recovery in the region; and

"Whereas it will cause a decline in commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value reassessment plan is an unfair location tax;

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to property tax assessment in Metropolitan Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

To which I also affix my signature.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas on June 11, 1992, the honourable member for Victoria-Haliburton, Mr Drainville, moved a resolution,

"That in the opinion of this House, the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly should be authorized to review and report to the House on recommended changes to the standing orders to allow independent members of the assembly the right to more fully participate in the work of the assembly;" and

"Whereas the Legislative Assembly on that day, June 11, 1992, did unanimously vote in favour of the resolution"—that's right, Mr Speaker, that's what it would be;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We request that the government allow the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly to study and debate the said resolution."

It's signed by members from Victoria-Haliburton, and I affix my signature to it.

POLICE USE OF FORCE

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I have a petition. It's been organized by a student in my riding, Richard Simson, indicating that young people are also supportive of our police forces and of law and order.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the law-abiding citizens of Ontario are gravely concerned about crime in their communities; and

"Whereas the citizens of Ontario trust the judgement of police officers in the province to administer sufficient force in order to protect persons and property; and

"Whereas the government of Ontario would be endangering the lives of the men and women who serve in our police forces by restricting any further conditions under which officers of the law may draw their firearms;

"We, the undersigned, feel that it is not in the best interests of Ontarians to place further regulations or restrictions upon the actions of police officers."

I submit this petition and affix my signature to it.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I have a petition signed by a number of citizens, again of rural Ontario, in the Wallaceburg and community area. It deals with the undersigned petitioning the Legislative Assembly with regard to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. What they are asking for is that the members of the Ontario Legislature pass quickly the changes to the OLRA, which will promote labour-management relationships and provide women, visible minorities and part-time workers with the same rights as other workers have under the act. I affix my signature to this piece.

GAMBLING

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a petition to members of the provincial Parliament of Ontario: A proposal to license a permanent gambling establishment in the Niagara Peninsula. It reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula. I believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with qual-

ity of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and the Niagara region in particular. I believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity. By my signature here attached, I ask you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

I agree with the sentiments of this petition, and I affix my signature to it to show my agreement.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I have a number of petitions signed by residents in the Blenheim area, the Leamington area, the Ridgeway area, the Windsor area—the majority of southwestern Ontario. The emphasis behind the petition is the wide-open Sunday shopping. The undersigned are opposed to Bill 38 and ask that the government withdraw it and allow that Sunday shopping not be wide open. I affix my signature to it.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I have a petition here.

"We, the undersigned, hereby register opposition to wide-open Sunday business. We believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families."

They are obviously against Bill 38, and I affix my signature to this petition.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY ACT, 1992

On motion by Ms Murdock, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr70, an Act respecting Nipissing University.

OPPOSITION DAY

NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr Elston moved opposition day motion number 2:

That this House condemns the government of Ontario for its failure to recognize:

That northern Ontario has been a source of enormous wealth for the private sector;

That northern Ontario has been a source of enormous revenues for the provincial government;

That the provincial government puts very little revenue back into the north;

That the roads in northern Ontario are in terrible shape;

That the NDP government has not proceeded with serious four-laning of highways in the north;

That the delivery of health care services in the north is still inferior;

That northern municipalities have particular problems of boom and bust while the NDP government freezes unconditional grants;

That forestry jobs are threatened because of this government's failure to live up to its commitment to provide

seedlings and because of the continuing practice of clear-cutting;

That almost no attempts have been made to diversify the economy to create jobs nor to work with the private sector and create meaningful jobs when serious layoffs occur;

That the Ontario government continues to treat northern Ontario citizens like second-class citizens.

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): I'm pleased to speak to the resolution just read into the record by our House leader. I would note that the government may want to quarrel with some parts of this resolution or its wording. It may be that in the course of our debate this afternoon they might want to suggest, for example, that in fact revenues are being returned back to northern Ontario, or they may want to argue that in fact the roads in northern Ontario are not in terrible shape because significant progress has been made in dealing with the transportation issues of northern Ontario.

So I'd like to make it very clear at the beginning of the debate that this resolution was not prepared by me or by our House leader or by the Liberal critic for Northern Development. This is, word for word, a resolution that was presented by the then member for Nickel Belt, now the Treasurer of Ontario, on June 26, 1990.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): That's out of date.

Mrs McLeod: The names have been changed to reflect the realities of today and to acknowledge those who are responsible for the continuing situation in northern Ontario. While the member for Algoma suggests that perhaps it is out of date, our contention in the debate today is that the contentions in that resolution are equally applicable and that there is no excuse for this government not having taken action to deal with the concerns it presented then.

1540

If this resolution was presented in good faith then, if the member for Nickel Belt at that time believed it was in fact an honest representation of the state of affairs in northern Ontario, if the opposition of that day was not just playing games, if it truly believed that the government of Ontario was treating northerners like second-class citizens, I would suggest to the member for Nickel Belt and to all of his colleagues that they look at their own record and at the record of their government. I suggest that they ask themselves honestly what they have done to correct one single aspect of the situation that was described in this resolution originally presented in June 1990.

Clearly, we placed this as an opposition motion before the results of last night's referendum were known. I've already suggested today that part of what we've seen—the results of northern Ontario are a particular example of that—in last night's vote was a reflection of the frustration people feel, and nowhere is that sense of frustration, anger and alienation felt more keenly than it is across northern Ontario. There is a feeling of alienation that the government simply refuses to understand the very unique needs

of people in northern Ontario. There is anger that the government doesn't deal with issues that really matter to northerners. And there is a tremendous frustration that in fact so many actions of this government have actually made matters worse.

It is a sad reality that as people in my community went to vote on the referendum question yesterday they were learning that a pulp and paper mill had closed its doors with finality and that a second pulp and paper mill was to either be sold or to close within the next 12 months. That's the reality of the frustration, the anger and the alienation that people in northern Ontario are feeling.

I would suggest that in our debate today, we begin to look at the reality of what has happened since this original motion was placed, since this government assumed the responsibility for dealing with the concerns of people across this province and with the concerns of people in northern Ontario.

The resource industries, which were a source of wealth and employment that northern communities relied on in the past, are now truly under siege. What has happened in Thunder Bay, with the announcement of another paper mill about to close, is just the most recent example of that.

In the mining sector, which is the largest non-government employer in northern Ontario, we've seen investment decline from \$450 million in 1988 to \$125 million in 1991, and the figures for 1992 are expected to be less than \$100 million. This is an industry that used to employ 30,000 people and now employs less than 22,000 people.

The forest products industry is clearly facing similarly difficult times, and in this climate of uncertainty, this government seems bent on creating even greater uncertainty for workers, for communities and for companies across northern Ontario. The government refuses to understand that forestry companies in northern Ontario don't know whether it's safe to invest in their plants to meet the federal environmental regulations, for example, because they don't know what to expect from this government in provincial environmental regulations. The government backed away from three years of work on MISA, the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, and workers, management and municipal leaders are now worried and confused about what the final provincial regulations will be. In this atmosphere of concern and uncertainty, the Premier, it appears, has now refused to even meet with mayors of the communities that are affected.

I'll turn for just a few moments to the specifics of the resolution, and one in particular recognizing that the roads of northern Ontario are in terrible shape. The resolution says, "That the NDP government has not proceeded with serious four-laning of highways in the north."

We remember that during their opposition days the New Democrats promised to four-lane the Trans-Canada Highway. In this year's estimates for the Ministry of Transportation, we've learned that by 1994 this government expects that only 22 kilometres of highway in northern Ontario will be four-laned. It's their promise, their commitment and their concern. I ask, is this a serious initiative in four-laning?

In the meantime, this government continues to pursue disentanglement as a solution to municipal and provincial budgetary woes, but what people in the north are afraid of is that this government doesn't understand that northern communities will not be able to manage road budgets on their own and the transportation problem, the serious condition of roads in northern Ontario, will just get worse and worse.

There is talk in this resolution of the importance of diversification. We recognized when the New Democrats originally presented the resolution that diversification is indeed important to the future of northern Ontario. But we see a government now that completely fails to understand how important tourism is to diversification in the north, how tourism in this province has been hit by the government's failure to proceed with the transportation initiatives that it committed itself to and how tourism has been further affected by increased gas prices.

Gas prices are one of those ironic issues, because we all remember the New Democrats raising again and again their concerns about gas prices and the effect high gas prices have, particularly in northern Ontario. Then we moved to the moment when the New Democrats themselves decided they would increase the gas tax.

I can't accuse them of completely forgetting that they were concerned about the impact of the gas tax on northern Ontario, because they went to offer northern Ontarians some sort of olive branch when they told northerners they would provide relief from the new burden of the increased gas tax by exempting them from the vehicle registration fee. Northerners were understandably not terribly appreciative, because there was very little saving to the northerners to compensate for the increased costs they would pay in gas tax. But now we review the government's infamous list of 63 possible ways to solve Ontario's revenue problems and we find that this rather desperate government is even now considering reinstating that vehicle registration fee exemption in northern Ontario. No wonder people are frustrated and angry and feel alienated.

There's a resolution here that speaks about the delivery of health care services in the north still being inferior. I'm not going to take the time of the House this afternoon to give example after example of how in their approach to health care issues this government keeps using one-size, broad-brush approaches that fail to respond to the unique needs and realities of northern Ontario communities, but if you talk to anybody in the north, you know that they believe that what this government has done has made access to quality health care in northern Ontario less and less possible.

Amid all the examples of broken promises, there are two particularly critical failures of the government which I must comment on. The first of these failures has been in the area of forest management. This government is continuing to consider an old-growth policy, an initiative which was undertaken by a previous government and a policy which we continue to feel is important, yet on this very important issue with significant resource implications we find the government once again failing to consult those who would be most affected by the policy.

As the Minister of Natural Resources looks somewhat surprised, I would suggest to the minister that he look very carefully at the places where the consultation of his Old Growth Forests Policy Advisory Committee is to take place. I found no community in the north where there is actually significant old growth to be considered that is involved in the consultation process.

At the same time, we continue to see cutbacks in forest regeneration. In 1992-93 this government cut the number of tree seedlings to be planted by 45 million. Now we're hearing rumours that the ministry will not offer any contracts to private tree seedling growers to plant on crown land in the 1993-94 fiscal year. Whatever the policies this government is looking at, there is one absolute rule in forest management, and that is that you cannot save forests unless you renew them. The regeneration policies of this government violate that rule and threaten both the environmental and the economic sustainability of the forest industry in this province.

I would refer the government, and particularly the Minister of Natural Resources, to the statement in this resolution, which was once theirs: "That forestry jobs are threatened because of this government's failure to live up to its commitment to provide seedlings."

The second serious, fundamental failure that I want to touch on today is the government's complete inability to diversify the economy of northern Ontario and thereby help to create jobs. I read again the resolution: "That almost no attempts have been made to diversify the economy to create jobs nor to work with the private sector and create meaningful jobs when serious layoffs occur." Again, an ironic resolution to have been presented originally by a New Democratic member, because we have seen with this New Democratic government a government that has been completely unable and unwilling to work with the private sector, a government that has absolutely refused to listen to any of the concerns of business or industry in the north or in any other part of this province.

In northern Ontario, as it has done right across this province, the New Democratic government has introduced one initiative after another, which has served to lessen confidence in investing in this province. They have created a sense that it is impossible to do business in Ontario. As a result, when layoffs occur, as they are occurring on a daily basis in my part of the province and indeed across the province, there are no jobs for workers to train for and there are no new businesses to provide jobs for them.

As my colleagues and I debate this motion today, we do so with sincere concern about the economic future of the northern part of this province and of the province as a whole. We debate this resolution with no confidence in the government's ability to achieve any of the goals it set out for itself in presenting this resolution in the spring of 1990.

1550

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Just as I rose in the spring of 1990 to support this resolution when proposed

by the NDP, I rise today to support this motion as proposed by the Liberal Party.

We will vote in favour of this. We do not have confidence in this administration, in this government, for a number of reasons, I might add. A number of my colleagues will wish to put some things on the record, and I will put a few myself, rather than all of us talking about the same things.

I don't want to dwell on the particular motion. There are some aspects of it that I find passing strange.

"The NDP government has not proceeded with serious four-laning of highways in the north." For northeastern Ontario, for the corridor served by Highway 11, once you get north of Huntsville, through Parry Sound, Nipissing, Timiskaming, up into Timmins and Cochrane, that takes that whole route. The last four-laning of any kind along Highway 11 was proposed, planned, promised, funded and started by a Progressive Conservative government over seven years ago. It was finished by a Liberal government that promised to four-lane everything when it got elected, and not one new inch of four-laning has proceeded on Highway 11 for the last seven years.

We had an NDP government that was going to four-lane the Trans-Canada. What that meant to everybody was that wherever we have a Trans-Canada Highway, as Highway 11 is, as Highway 17 is, people would expect that if they voted NDP, there would be four-laning. On the contrary; there has been even less with the NDP government than there was with the Liberals, and with the Liberals there was even less than there was when there were Progressive Conservative governments, at a time, I might add, when we spent half as much money overall.

"Forestry jobs are threatened because of this government's failure to live up to its commitment to provide seedlings." The last government in administration, spending less than half the amount of money the Treasurer announced in his budget, had far more seedlings provided at a time when we should have been moving ahead. In 1985, when we were talking about significantly more dollars required now for tending of the forest, because we had massively increased the numbers in the planting of seedlings in the late 1970s and the early 1980s, we said that must not only continue, but now we need even more money. We had commitments for more money for northern Ontario through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Affairs at the time.

A new government took over in 1985, the coalition of Liberals and NDP, and we've seen cuts ever since. We saw cuts in reforestation. Obviously, to avoid the embarrassment of not tending the forest, of not caring for all the seedlings that were being planted, rather than recognize that we must put more back in, you simply cut back on the number of seedlings.

If ever I've seen anything that is a disgrace and the reverse of what was expected—we certainly expected, and I know northerners have been very disappointed, that when the NDP was elected it would in fact move on four-laning.

They condemned, as the leader of the Liberal Party has said, all those Liberal tax hikes on gasoline day after day

after day. Gosh knows they had enough opportunities to condemn them, because with every budget the Liberals hiked the gas tax, further destroying the competitiveness of Ontario, but even more so in northern Ontario, where we rely on gasoline and that form of transportation more than in many areas of southern Ontario.

Then, as the Liberals have pointed out, and I'm quite in agreement with them, after all those opportunities to condemn the Liberals for hiking gas taxes, they got elected, and what do they turn around and do? They hike gas taxes. I say, a pox on both of you. Neither one of you had the courage to live up to your commitments that you made to northerners when you ran for election. It was so easy when both of you were in opposition to condemn the balance of 42 years of sound Progressive Conservative government.

The last exciting thing that happened in northern Ontario was the creation of a separate Ministry of Northern Affairs, condemned by the Liberals at the time, condemned by all, when the Conservative government of that day had the courage to come forward. Then, once you get into government, you try to pretend that the Ministry of Northern Development is your ministry. You squeeze their budgets, you cut off the funding for reforestation and you cut off the funding for mining exploration.

One of the things I'm a little concerned about is that there's nothing in this resolution about parks policies, about multiple use, about mining. There's nothing in here about tourism. There's nothing in here about a number of the mainstays of northern Ontario economic activity and of the new industries that should be taking place there.

I look at the amount of money that has been put out and the statistics from Save Our North about the disgraceful amount of money being put into mining exploration in northern Ontario and what that means to us. They point out the \$500 million of benefits that Kidd Creek Mines provides to the economy of Canada, half a billion dollars, and we are cutting down on the total Ontario exploration spending. We're spending less in real dollars in 1991 than we did throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Even in indexed dollars, we're spending less.

There's nothing in here about the environment. There's nothing in here about a government that took away the only hope northern Ontario had to get one single job out of recycling. You see, the recycling movement also provides opportunities for new technologies, for new jobs.

When a proposal came forward from Kirkland Lake saying, "Let's put this proposal to a full environmental assessment test; let's see if it's best for the environment," a proposal that required southern Ontario garbage because there's not enough garbage generated in all of northern Ontario to justify the new technology and the capital expense required for the recycling operation that's proposed there—ie, they needed more garbage in order to provide feedstock, if you like, for all those jobs and for that recycling—the NDP said no to the environment. They said no to jobs for northern Ontario. They said, "You're going to have to recycle in the north, but all the jobs and all the benefits will go to southern Ontario." That was the net result of those decisions.

There are so many things that this government has done wrong in the area of economics, of jobs, of opportunity, of prosperity, of building for the future, of providing hope, of providing opportunity all across this province, including northern Ontario. For a party that was elected with a considerable amount of support in northern Ontario, with high hopes and expectations—I mean, we saw through some of it.

They campaigned in Elliot Lake saying, "Vote for us and we'll buy all the uranium from Elliot Lake." Then they went over to Manitoulin Island, where they were opposed to nuclear power, in the same riding, and said, "Vote for us and we'll stop nuclear power." There were so many obvious and blatant inconsistencies in the campaign that we should have been able to see through it at the time. But there were many that Ontarians believed, and many that those in the north believed. They didn't buy the old Elliot Lake-Manitoulin fric and frac, say one thing in one place and then something else; we realize that. But many in northern Ontario did believe that you sincerely were going to put more emphasis on northern Ontario.

Instead of that, by any measure—amount of highways, four-laning, amount of money for infrastructure for our municipalities—the percentage of the budget going to northern Ontario is less than it was with the Liberals, and it was less than it was when we had Progressive Conservative governments that had things in perspective in this province.

So we will support the motion. I'm surprised the Liberals had the courage to bring it forward because it is, as they said, the same motion that condemned their lack of action. We supported it at that time; we support it at this time. Shame on both of you.

1600

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): It is indeed with some pleasure that I have an opportunity to take part in this debate, because I would like to add a little bit of history to what we have heard here. I will not try to respond to all of the comments and allegations made by the leader of the third party or the Leader of the Opposition. I'll leave that to some of my colleagues, but let me start here. Both of the opposition leaders would have the people of northern Ontario believe that there is not such a thing as a worldwide recession going on out there. They would have the people of northern Ontario believe that there was never such a thing as a free trade deal signed and that it has no impact on the people of northern Ontario.

General Motors has announced it is going to close 21 plants in North America, putting 74,000 people out of work. International Business Machines has announced that over the next five years it will close plants and put 40,000 people out of work. There is a worldwide problem with the economy. You need only ask the Japanese, with the difficulties that they are going through with their economy, as to the truth of that statement. The members opposite would have us believe that no such worldwide recession exists.

Also, in regard to the comments that my colleagues in the New Democratic Party made in the run-up to the signing of the free trade deal and the comments that we made

saying this is a bad deal for Canada and this is a bad deal for Ontario and northern Ontario, I'm sad that everything we predicted has turned out to be true, that we are losing hundreds of thousands of jobs. And to hear the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party try to tell the people of northern Ontario that nothing like the free trade deal exists, that it has had no impact on their jobs, no impact on the logging industry, no impact on the forestry industry, is complete and utter drivel and shouldn't be repeated in this place. And for the leader of the third party, the Progressive Conservative Party, to believe that he can continue to make these comments day after day, and that over time people might believe him, has to be challenged.

The fact of the matter is that northern Ontario has been badly hurt by the free trade deal; northern Ontario has been badly hurt by the worldwide recession. We are working hard to address these issues, and let me point out some of the ways.

As soon as we became the government we put together a \$700-million anti-recession program. As members know, the people of northern Ontario make up 8.3% of the total population of Ontario. Nothing less than 30% of the anti-recession program, nothing less than 30% of \$700 million, was allocated to northern Ontario. That is far more than the Progressive Conservative Party ever would have allocated to northern Ontario to address the free trade deal or a recession and far more than the Liberal Party ever did in the five years it was the government.

Where was that money spent? It was spent on projects that would give long-term benefits to communities and provide short-term jobs that would deal with the havoc that has been created by the recession and the havoc that has been created by the Conservative gift to Canada: the free trade deal.

Mr Speaker, 143,481 person-weeks of employment were created by the anti-recession program in northern Ontario. That put people back to work, people who had lost their jobs because the Conservatives brought in the softwood lumber tax and shut down sawmills and shut down logging enterprises across northern Ontario.

It is very clear what the free trade deal says. The free trade deal says that all we're to continue to do in northern Ontario is to mine and cut the forest; all of the manufacturing, the processing, the value added jobs are to be done in the United States. That is what the free trade deal means.

We are having to adjust to, to deal with on a daily basis, the havoc that was left to us by the federal Progressive Conservative Party bringing in the free trade deal, bringing in no adjustment programs to deal with the havoc that was created, bringing in no training programs and simply saying to the people of northern Ontario, "If you're out of work, too bad, so sad; eat cake." That is what the Progressive Conservative Party has left for northern Ontario, and the Liberal Party, when it was the government and could have responded, could have planned and could have put in place adjustment programs over the five years when this province had the highest budgets ever, did nothing.

I ask you to consider this. When we became the government, these are the backlogs that we found in Ontario: The northern health travel program was in backlog; the

courts were in backlog; the Ontario Municipal Board was in backlog; the Assessment Review Board was in backlog; the Human Rights Commission was in backlog. That is the legacy the Liberal Party left to Ontario: lots of backlogs, lots of work that hadn't been done and hadn't been dealt with. We have been required to work very hard to address these needs.

Hydro rates: The Conservative Party talks about a legacy to northern Ontario. Let's be clear; the reason that Hydro is in such a mess today is because no one over there, not in the Progressive Conservative Party and not in the Liberal Party, was looking at the bottom line with respect to Ontario Hydro for 20 years. We have been given a gift, a gift of nuclear plants that have \$1-billion and \$2-billion repair bills. Darlington, a plant that the Conservative Party started, a plant that the Liberal Party refused to shut down—

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): A plant that you said you wouldn't continue to build.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: Sorry, Mr Speaker. I'll wait until you've quelled the opposition.

Darlington can't operate at 50% efficiency, but leaves the people of Ontario with a \$14.3-billion debt. That is the legacy of the Progressive Conservative Party and the Liberal Party, not only to Ontario in general but specifically to northern Ontario.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Who said they were going to close it?

Mr Eves: Who said they were not going to finish it?

Mr Stockwell: Why did you finish it, Howard? Yes, you were going to close it, remember that? Close it, Howard.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: Yes?

The Deputy Speaker: Please.

Hon Mr Hampton: Since 1991, this government has put \$106.6 million into highway construction and repair. That compares to \$83.4 million in 1988, far more than the Liberal government was prepared to spend. From October 1990 to October 1992 the Ministry of the Environment has transferred to northern municipalities \$64.4 million for sewer and water projects. I invite people to sit down and look at the 1988 and 1989 allocations by the Liberal government to northern Ontario, and look what we have done with a far tighter budget and with far more economic difficulties to confront.

Given the worldwide recession and the havoc that has been created by the free trade deal, we have done very well indeed, and I think the people of northern Ontario know that.

1610

Mr Eves: I would like to participate in this debate. Some of the stuff coming out of the Attorney General's mouth is just unbelievable: The free trade deal is responsible for all the ills of northern Ontario. I suppose it's responsible for Mr Bush's low popularity in the United States of America; I suppose it's responsible for Japan's

economic problems; I suppose it's responsible for Great Britain's economic problems; I suppose it's responsible for France's economic problems. Give me a break. Grow up.

Every government that has ever been in power anywhere has to deal with change and what's going on in the world. The object and the responsibility of government is dealing with that change and coping with that change and making life better for people, not dumping on somebody else politically because you don't want to accept the responsibility of being in government.

Talking about promises, I have with me a copy of the Agenda for People. Talking about governments that promise one thing and don't deliver, we'll go through a few of the promises made in the Agenda for People with respect to northern Ontario, and I hope to go through a few of the promises made in NDP brochures during the summer of 1990 election campaign. I have some great little quotes here from the current Premier of the province and from the Agenda for People.

"Our party will not be presenting an endless catalogue of promises to the people of Ontario. Men and women across Ontario have told me they don't want promises that can't be kept, and they don't trust parties that pretend to serve every need and satisfy every demand. Compare our approach," Mr Rae said, "to the record of the Liberals. We don't use election campaigns to discover problems, promise solutions and then ignore them afterwards," end of quote from Mr Rae.

Oh we don't, don't we? How many of those promises have been kept 26 months later? Most of those campaign promises have either been totally ignored, or subject to a complete about-face, or have never materialized in the first place and never even been talked about again.

In Agenda for People, the first thing the New Democratic Party of Ontario promised to do was to create a northern fund where it would spend \$400 million over the first two years that it was in power. They've been in power now for 26 months. They have not spent anywhere near the \$400 million they promised to spend in the first 24 months that they would be in power.

When they were in opposition they recognized that this money was needed. They recognized that this money was going to return to the north part of what was raised in the north. It is estimated that a minimum figure of at least \$250 million a year is raised through taxation by the province of Ontario in northern Ontario. I would think the government would want to make a commitment that it would at least return the money to northerners that it extracted from northerners through various means of Ontario taxation, and that would require \$250 million a year, each and every single year.

They said they were going to spend this money to promote economic development, job protection, job creation and improve services throughout the north. They also went on to say that in addition to this \$200 million that they were going to spend, they were making a commitment, because they said the Trans-Canada Highway, to quote them, through the north was "nothing less than a disgrace: two lanes, busy with trucks, suffering from poor maintenance and unsafe....New Democrats would make \$100

million a year available for this important project." That's a direct quote from their own campaign document.

They were going to spend \$200 million a year, every year, doing this other stuff, and they were going to spend \$100 million a year, every year, to improve the Trans-Canada Highway through the north. They have done neither.

They can't use the economy as an excuse because they explain here how they were going to balance their budget in the fiscal year that they were talking about. When they attained power in September 1990, they then immediately began to backtrack and said that Mr Nixon had fudged the figures and that now they couldn't do some of the things they were going to do.

But in the summer of 1990, when the Treasurer of Ontario said in the Legislature, "Any fool would know in April 1990 that we were in serious problems," did any fool draw up this document and have a balanced budget? Did any fool do that in August 1990 when this thing was produced and suggested that there would be revenue in excess of the expenditure, including all the promises, every single one of them, in Agenda for People, when the Treasurer says that any fool would know in April 1990 that you couldn't do this? I suggest the Treasurer should have talked to the person who drafted An Agenda for People and published it in August 1990, because any fool would know that those promises couldn't be kept.

Going on with a few of the other promises that this government has made, I want to say, first of all, a few words about the Minister of Northern Development, because I have nothing but the utmost respect for the Minister of Northern Development.

I want to say that when the member for Sudbury East was first elected, she came down here and proposed that there be a northern heritage fund. She introduced a private member's resolution which Mr Harris—I might add, the member for Nipissing—and myself spoke in favour of and that was when the Liberal government was in power. She criticized the then Liberal government for not delivering on a promise of a northern heritage fund and talked about the amount of money that would be required to have a satisfactory, effective northern heritage fund. She talked about how woefully inadequate the current budget of \$30 million a year was for a northern heritage fund.

I want to tell you that this government is spending no more money per year in its northern heritage fund in 1992 than Leo Bernier spent in 1984 under the Nordev, or northern Ontario regional development, program. That's how committed this government is to northern Ontario. They are spending the same amount of money some nine years later that Mr Bernier was spending in 1984. I don't call that commitment, and yet we have quote upon quote from the Minister of Northern Development about how inadequate that fund was and she goes on to talk about how much money should be spent, the \$400 million that has been talked about. Talk about playing politics with an issue.

There was a program when Mr Bernier was the minister called Nordev. When Mr Fontaine became the minister he changed the name of the program and spent the same amount of money. Then everybody was criticized because there should be a northern heritage fund. Then Mr Fontaine

decided to create a northern heritage fund, but he spent the same amount of money and all he did was transfer the programs from the Conservative program into the northern heritage fund, called it something different and said, "Surprise."

This is the same money. It's the same program. It's being spent in the same way. We just call it different things. We throw different labels on them because we represent three different political parties. I don't know what good that is doing for the people of northern Ontario and I don't know who anybody thinks they're fooling by proceeding in that manner.

I'd like to talk about a few other campaign promises made by this government in the summer of 1990: "Be it resolved that the Ontario NDP caucus should press the provincial government to set maximum wholesale-retail prices for gasoline products and ensure that these prices are uniform throughout the province."

There's another promise this party made, that it's going to have uniform gasoline prices across the province so that northerners no longer would have to pay a premium. How come I didn't hear anything about that when they introduced the gas guzzler tax? How come I didn't hear anything about that when the gasoline tax increase of 1.5 cents a litre—up another 1.5 cents a litre this past January. How come I didn't hear anything about those promises? How come I didn't hear anything about the fact that this even further disparaged the inequity between gasoline prices in northern and southern Ontario? How come I didn't hear it from the Treasurer of the province who comes from northern Ontario? What happened to that promise?

What about the promise that the government would open a bilingual medical school at a northern university? Where is that medical school? What about the promise that the government would push for a northern medical school so health care providers stay in the north? Where's the fulfilment of that promise?

What about Shelley Martel's promise in her campaign brochure in the summer of 1990, "Gas prices must be equalized across the province." That's a direct quote. "New Democrats will push for a northern medical school so health care providers stay in the north." That's a direct quote. Where are those things? You've been in power for 26 months. Where are they?

You can't blame that on free trade. You can blame it on lack of commitment. I'm not saying it's a lack of commitment on the part of the Minister of Northern Development, but it sure is a lack of commitment for those people that sit right in there that control all the power in this government, including the Treasurer who happens to be from Sudbury himself.

Here's a quote from the member for Sudbury East in her private member's resolution of 1987 when she says, "A \$30-million budget commitment is 'inadequate at best.'" Yet that's what she's delivering today under the northern heritage fund.

I will give the government this: They have helped address some short-term problems and some serious short-term problems in Kapuskasing, Elliot Lake and with Algoma Steel. It has done that, but I wouldn't expect anything less

of any government of any political stripe. Every government that has ever been in power has had crisis situations and problems it's had to deal with. That's the responsibility of being in government in the first place, to deal with these challenges and problems from day to day, but the reality is that doesn't do anything for the long-term economic plight of northern Ontario. It's still subject to boom and bust in certain sectors of the economy, depending on how the world economy and the Canadian economy are doing from time to time.

1620

In the few short minutes I have left, I would also like to talk about a couple of other issues which I think are very important, one of them being the whole area of the environment.

The Attorney General raised the issue of the cost of hydro and the issue of nuclear power and Darlington. I think there is not a person in this chamber who wouldn't state today that this is a vast expenditure. This is also the same party which, when it was in opposition, said very clearly in more than one provincial election campaign that if it was elected, it would stop Darlington in its tracks. They would not complete Darlington, they would not spend one more cent with respect to nuclear energy in the province, yet they proceeded down the road spending hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars. We've seen hydro rates in this province go up by some 20% over two years. That's a legacy and a burden that no other government has ever placed on hydro users in the province.

Kirkland Lake asked the Minister of the Environment for an opportunity to have the minister look at Kirkland Lake as a possible alternative towards solving the garbage crisis. She absolutely dismissed it out of hand and said she would not consider it.

A few weeks ago, I raised in the House the Synthetic Energy proposal in the Minister of Northern Development's own home town of Sudbury. These people are not asking for one cent from the government. They are asking that Ontario Hydro enter into negotiations to purchase some of the hydro power they would produce as a byproduct of their operation. They proved that they would employ hundreds of people in northern Ontario, that they would purchase, I believe it was, at least 5% of the corn crop in southern Ontario to make this a very viable enterprise. They have a market of \$300 million a year that can start tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, and this government won't even consider their proposal.

I have small hydro-electric power projects that are proposed in my own riding. If you want to talk about the elimination and reduction of nuclear power in the province of Ontario, I presume there have to be literally hundreds of these province-wide. Ontario Hydro won't even consider that. They want to use coal-powered plants that produce sulphuric acid. They want to spend hundreds of millions of dollars a year—I believe the figure is about \$600 million to \$700 million—refitting, refurbishing and repairing antiquated coal-powered stations instead of looking to small hydro-electric hydraulic power proposals around the province, instead of looking at things like Synthetic Energy is proposing, instead of getting into the new technology and

helping the environment at the same time. They won't even consider these things.

I find that absolutely ludicrous, because they're locked into some mentality that says they're not going to do it, or because the Minister of the Environment says she's not going to do it or because Mr Eliesen says he's not going to do it. They don't think about what they're doing. There are all kinds of ways you can help northern Ontario that don't require a cent of your money, but you're unwilling to even consider or look at those factors.

The last thing I wanted to touch on just very briefly is health care in the north, because this is an issue that these members of the New Democratic Party and candidates have talked about for years and years, in election campaign after election campaign. They have dealt with some issues. In my own riding they've dealt with the issue of northern health travel grants, not to everybody's satisfaction because one of the criteria still depends on not where the individual patient resides but where the doctor resides, which doesn't make any sense to me whatsoever. I thought this program was to help people who live in northern Ontario regardless of where their physician resides.

Look at the number of specialists who have left the Sudbury area alone or are planning to leave in the near future. Now, there has to be a problem, I say to myself, when all these highly qualified, respected physicians leave an area of the province en masse, and leaving Dr Donahue totally out of this equation.

There's a lack of psychiatrists and psychologists in Sudbury. There's one psychologist, Dr Ho, to serve all of northern Ontario, whom we had to yell and scream and fight for to get into the Sudbury cancer centre in the first place, when the member for Oriole was the Minister of Health, as I recall, a battle that lasted about a year. He's a very respected physician and he's developed a stem cell transplant program at the cancer centre in Sudbury. He's on his way to California.

Dr Robert Corringham, who spearheaded the cancer treatment centre to start with, to get it in Sudbury, is leaving the province. Dr Chris Farrell, obstetrics-gynaecology, has announced his departure from Sudbury. Dr John Rowen, a thoracic surgeon, has announced that he's leaving Sudbury. Dr Gary Nadeau has announced that he's leaving Sudbury. Dr Joan Dahmer, an internist, has announced she's going to leave the Sudbury area.

Now, there has to be something wrong, I say to myself, when all these highly qualified, respected physicians are leaving northern Ontario en masse. They're either going to southern Ontario or they're going to other countries or other parts of this country, because for some reason they don't feel welcome or accommodated under the current system.

Mr Stockwell: Free trade.

Mr Eves: And you can't blame that on free trade.

It is so simple to say: "We're doing everything exactly right and all our problems stem from free trade, so we can just dump on Brian Mulroney. We know the people hate him, so we'll just dump on him and that solves all our problems. There, we don't have any problem any more."

Do you think the people who are unemployed still don't have a problem any more because you've got it off your political plate on to somebody else's? Do you think the people who don't get qualified medical treatment in northern Ontario don't have a problem any more because you've dumped on the most hated man, perhaps, in the country? How has that resolved any of your problems, and how have you helped one single person in northern Ontario by using that kind of tenuous, at best—that is the most polite terminology I could use—explanation?

Accept the responsibility that you were elected for. Deliver on the promises. As your Premier said in the Agenda for People: "We're not going to be like any other government. We're going to deliver. We're never going to make a promise that we don't keep." Well, start keeping your promises.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I'm particularly pleased, at my point in the rotation, to follow the member opposite, who spoke in his concluding remarks with particular respect to health care in northern Ontario. I think he focused primarily on the issue of the number of doctors and specialists in northern Ontario and the issue of recruitment and retention which we've spoken about many times in this Legislature, and which we know to have been a long-standing and ongoing problem with respect to the north and health care.

There is, however, a need for me to be very direct with the member opposite and with the Health critic in his party, who continue to throw about absolutely erroneous numbers. I think it's very important for us to set this straight for all people in Ontario, but particularly for people in the north who hear these individuals continually talk about a mass exodus of doctors from northern Ontario.

It was just a week ago or so that the critic from the PC party indicated that in fact there were 10 doctors who had left the Sault Ste Marie area and that there were 33 doctors who had left the Sudbury area. When I pushed him on that, he came back and he said, "Well, maybe six have come but it's a net loss." He was very clear. He was very sure of his numbers yet again.

I've asked the members opposite to address these kinds of issues that I actually do think continue to be important challenges for us to address these kinds of issues, which I actually do think continue to be important challenges for us to address, with some sense of responsibility around how they present them and around the data they use.

1630

I would point out to people that during the period from December 1991 to September of this year, if we look at the numbers of doctors who are registered, who are billing for services, who are in our health care system—first of all, let me deal with the area of Algoma, because the member opposite suggested that there had been a loss of 10 doctors from that area. In fact, during that period of time we have an increase of 10 on our billing rolls at this point, doctors who are actually active and delivering services in that area. The numbers have gone from 186 up to 196.

Sudbury: This is where we heard that there was a loss of 33 doctors from that area. Let me tell you that the numbers in that same period have gone from 268 up to 289. That's a net increase of 21.

This is not an unimportant issue, and I don't want to suggest that there aren't needs for continued initiatives in this regard. We have done a number of things.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Lankin: The members opposite will know that there already are programs that exist in the government attempting to address this issue, issues of the underserved area bursary program, the incentive program, but they weren't doing enough and they weren't doing the job. We remained convinced that there was more to be done.

We have, in the course of the last year and a half, introduced the specialist retention initiative in terms of the underserved area travelling specialist program. We are attempting, by greater initiatives, to affect the practice of medicine with respect to recruitment and retention for northerners. This is an important issue for us.

There are some other initiatives that we are working on that we haven't implemented yet that I think are very critical to this, the whole area of physician human resource management; our ability, through effective use of incentives and disincentives, through perhaps billing number allocations, to look at how we support having more doctors in the north who will stay in the north. One of the things we've understood from the recruitment programs we have had in place is that retention remains a problem. The physician will come in under that program, will remain there for two to four years and then will come back down to southern Ontario. We have, I think, specific initiatives that will address that. I think the program will be of assistance, although this still remains an issue.

The member talked about the northern health travel grant. I want to point out that these weren't minor improvements we made to it. Let's look at the record. In 1988-89 we spent \$9.4 million in this province under the previous government. In 1989-90 it was \$9.6 million. In 1990-91, the transfer year, it was \$9.8 million. In 1991-92, on the northern health travel grant, \$11.5 million in assistance was provided by this government. That's a major increase in one year to enhance services and access to services for northerners. I think it continues to show our commitment.

I'll move quickly at this point, because I think there are a number of issues that need to be addressed and I just want to touch on them.

In the course of the time I have been in this portfolio, as I've been well advised by members of our northern caucus, who continue to come to me with ideas and with the concerns of the constituents they represent, we've announced a number of initiatives.

We announced the northern diabetes network, which involves 42 communities in northern Ontario. This was an area of growing concern with respect to the incident rate of diabetes of northerners. We all should be concerned in this

House. We should be concerned with what's happening in our aboriginal communities, in the north in particular. It's of epidemic proportions. Forty-two communities are getting access to health education, promotion, services that will stop people from getting ill, stop people from ending up in the hospital with very serious illnesses that can be directly related to diabetes and that can be preventable with the proper kind of intervention. We've done that.

Let me talk about the breast cancer screening program with respect to Thunder Bay. In April 1992, we put in place a travelling mobile van program because we knew that in northern Ontario it's not just a question of putting it in one centre. It's a question of access and a question of bringing services to people, not always bringing the people to the services. I think that's an important thing.

The member opposite talked about medical schools and training of health care professionals. Let me tell you, I'm very proud of some things. We are now just coming into the second year of the northern Ontario family medicine residency program, doctors who are in their training, getting their residency up in northern Ontario. Hopefully, that will help recruit more northerners who will end up staying and practising in the north.

Construction is currently under way—and this is something else that was announced by this government and was supported by us—for the health science resource centre at Laurentian University in Sudbury, along with the centre previously built at Lakehead University. This centre was funded by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. It supports a residency program and houses other health-related programs, such as northern health human resource research units. Applied research helps us learn how to recruit and retain more health professionals in the north.

There's been support for further development of the regional cancer centre. There's a third machine that's up and operating there at this point in time. There's been some controversy about whether that was needed, but it's there and it's operating. Sudbury is now providing services to people from some other parts of the province where we have shortages or waiting lists. Through a provincial registry we're now able to move people up to northern Ontario to receive services. There have been enhancements there as well.

We've passed, and will soon have proclaimed, legislation that gives recognition to midwifery. We're in the process of getting ready to move in the development of the educational program, a university-based program for midwifery. Regardless of which proposal is implemented—they're being reviewed—there will be, I am quite convinced, a northern university that will be involved in a network of education with respect to this program, tremendously important in terms of, again, recruiting northerners as health professionals in a very important new health profession.

The northern health human resource research units at Lakehead and Laurentian universities have begun their research activities. Scientists and health care providers, planners and consumers are working together, looking into the issues of recruitment and retention.

In spite of the desperate fiscal situation that faces this government, we continue to invest new resources in the north. I very recently announced three new community health centres. They included Aboriginal People's CHC in Timmins, the Centre de santé communautaire de Sudbury and Longlac Community Health Centre.

That's a concrete demonstration of continued support for enhanced services. The people on this side of the House understand very well—we have a large representation of members from the north—the need to continue to address these issues. There will be other initiatives, there will be more expansions in terms of community health centres, there will be reforms in terms of long-term care dealing with transportation, nursing home beds, a whole range of issues.

Capital expenditures are going on in the north in the health care sector. I think we have a proud record. I'm very pleased with it. The members of our northern caucus, on an ongoing basis, bring issues of concern to me which continue to need to be addressed. I pledge that we will continue to do that. I reject the allegations that have been made by the members opposite.

The Acting Speaker: I wish to thank the honourable minister for her participation. Further debate?

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): I must say at the outset that it's always a pleasure to follow the Minister of Health, for whom I have a lot of respect and who I know does an excellent job on that side of the House. But I'm looking for participation in this debate from the six northern members.

I cannot remember anything that stands out more in my mind than reading the newspapers when the Premier of the province provided northern Ontario with six ministers. We've heard from one so far; we've heard from the Attorney General. We heard the Attorney General blame Brian Mulroney. Everybody's blaming Brian Mulroney today for everything. We heard the Attorney General do that here in the House today. We heard him blame free trade. We heard him put a number of blames on the recession, the recession we're faced with but are looking to the government of Ontario for answers to.

Unfortunately, the Attorney General could get up and do all of this, blame all those people, but yet could not come into this House and present a petition from 3,150 of his constituents regarding a mobile CAT scan service in northwestern Ontario. I suggested to those people that if they wanted that petition presented, they could have given it to me. He could have given it to any other member in that party to present. He could not do that, he could not come in here and represent his constituents by doing that, but he could come in here and blame Brian Mulroney and the federal government. That's not helping us in northwestern Ontario.

What I'm looking forward to is hearing from those other ministers, from the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. I'm looking forward to listening to her and how she's going to bring forth those resolutions in an area of 18% unemployment.

We can listen to all the rhetoric over there, but when I go home to my constituency, I face unemployed miners; I

face many people who are losing their businesses or going bankrupt. I face all those people who are facing unemployment, at a rate higher than anywhere else in this province: 18%.

1640

Business closures continue to rise. Every day we take a look at the number of businesses that are shut down. This is affecting northern Ontario as much as what the Attorney General went on to say is affecting southern Ontario. I suggest he take a little closer look at what we're facing in the north and get some of the facts and figures coming from northern Ontario.

The member who spoke previously spoke about the Ministry of Northern Development as well. Yes, I have to go back to Leo Bernier and, yes, I have to give Leo Bernier credit for bringing that ministry to us in the north. It's a very big improvement, and something we looked forward to.

Would you believe that ministry last year had its budget cut by \$58 million? It's a \$58-million budget cut to something which we were very proud of in the north, which we saw deliver a goodly amount of service to us in northern Ontario. When this government talks about its interest in the north, its six ministers representing us in the north, all we have to do is take a look at the figures. The figures point out to us that we have reductions in areas we really depended on.

I'm the critic for Mines in the official opposition, and actually the mining industry of northern Ontario is facing a lot of very important issues today: the low commodity prices; the increasing sources of supply they have to compete with; a dramatic rise in the cost of production, a good number of things which are uncontrollable costs but some things that can be addressed by this government.

When I talk about the rising production costs, I'm talking about the rising WCB costs this government is forcing upon the mining industry; the Hydro rates, something which is facing the mining industry and the forestry industry and hitting them head on in terms of the rates they're having to pay Ontario Hydro to remain in production. As we know, both mining and forestry are high energy users, and if these costs keep going through the ceiling, we'll just see them close up their doors and head off to other areas where there are some incentives for them to come in.

Unfavourable tax incentives, such as Bill 12, are just not putting money into mining.

I take a look at the recent legislation being proposed by this government, the Ontario Labour Relations Act—and let's just take a look at what that's doing to the mining industry. Replacement workers cannot be brought in during a closedown. What will that do to the furnaces that must continuously operate to ensure that an operation will be kept running? What will that do to areas where the mining industry needs people to keep the operation going? What will that do to the forestry industry and the mills, where the operation needs people to ensure that if there is a strike, those machines will be kept up in order that they can open up when the strike is settled? This government must take a look at the legislation.

I go back to the issue of investment in mining. In 1988 we had \$450 million invested in mineral exploration in the province of Ontario. In 1991 that dropped to \$125 million, and now in 1992 we're looking at estimates of approximately \$100 million, again in exploration. People in the House may not realize how important that exploration is in terms of finding new mines, in terms of spending in northern Ontario.

In the mining industry, we have approximately 21,700 people employed directly in the operation. I am including mining, milling and smelting operations. You've got to take a look at this. Today 21,700 people are employed. That is down from over 30,000 people who were employed in this industry in northern Ontario in the late 1980s. Again, a strong reduction in employment, and this government must realize that.

If I take a look at the beginning of Bill 12, and I mentioned that earlier, An Act to amend the Mining Tax Act, this was a budget measure of 1991 which had received third reading and royal assent in June 1992. It's a mining tax that limited expenditures in mining and was a tax on new mines.

There are a number of very complicated issues involved in Bill 12, but I think the bottom line in Bill 12 is that it sent out a very negative message. It sent out the message that mining profits were going to be fully taxed. What more of a negative message would you want to send out?

I could go on and talk about the revenues that have been falling in the mining industry, from a high of \$7.3 billion in 1989 to \$5.1 billion as costs increase, and how that's affecting mining.

I would like to end on an issue that really affects us in my riding. I've spoken on this a number of times and I would like to bring this back to the House today. It revolves around a commitment that came out of a campaign brochure of the member Shelley Martel in the summer of 1990, where she said, "Gas prices must be equalized across the province." That was two years ago. In a check today, we find out that in Kenora we're paying 55.9 cents a litre for regular gasoline, while in Toronto they're paying 49 cents.

Is that the equalization of gas prices across this province promised by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines two years ago? I think not. Again, as I've said in the past, we don't have public transportation in northern Ontario; we rely a lot more on our transportation, which the minister agreed to back in 1990 during the campaign. But today we see no action.

In wrapping up, I would like to say again that I'm looking forward to hearing from those six ministers from northern Ontario who have been touted by the Premier to represent our interests in northern Ontario.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I welcome the opportunity to put some thoughts forward on this extremely important opposition day motion brought forward by the member for Bruce. As the critic for Natural Resources for our party, I thought it would be appropriate for me today to relate some of the concerns we have with regard to northern Ontario. It really has to do with the

forest management, the infrastructure that is now threatened by a minister who has little regard for the long-term consequences of his actions.

It should be noted that it was the PC member for Nipissing who launched a major tending initiative back in 1985, because he believed, with the support of the government of the day, that this kind of investment in our forests was a direct investment in Ontario's wellbeing. This tending initiative was a multimillion-dollar program designed to complement and accelerate efforts by both government and industry to grow and plant enough trees to sustain our forests, and to sustain them environmentally as well as industrially.

While we make no claim of perfection, Ontario Progressive Conservatives take great pride in the success of what we called an integrated approach to forest management during the 1980s. It was an approach that included the development and implementation of world-leading forest management agreements in partnership with the private sector. There was a renewed focus in terms of accelerated growing, planting and tending, as I've already indicated. It was all supported by comprehensive fire management and pest control infrastructure, among the best in the world.

During the 1980s there was a vision and a plan with respect to forest renewal and sustainability in the province of Ontario, but I don't really think that's the case today. Somewhere along the line, driven in large part, I suspect, by quick fixes, narrow issues and vested interests, this government has lost sight of this commitment to our forest environment. The government has closed its eyes to the vision and set aside the plan.

Instead, what's happening today is that we're now drifting directionless from pollster to Premier, to headline, to crisis. What's worse, we've now had a number of major policy decisions on the part of the current government that run counter to any semblance of responsible resource management whatsoever.

On February 12 of this year, the Minister of Natural Resources announced Operation Tree Plant, a stunning retreat in terms of Ontario's commitment to tree planting. Despite the fancy, and somewhat misleading, name of the program, what it means is that the Ontario government is actually planting 35 million fewer trees this year as part of its traditional obligations.

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Sure, many of these trees will get planted, but probably in the wrong place and without proper tending afterwards, at the expense of growing and unfulfilled needs elsewhere in the province. This is not responsible or professional forest management. It's simply an ad hoc consolation prize driven by a decision in the Premier's office to cut spending, regardless of the consequences.

Then, on March 24, the minister dropped the other shoe: He announced that four of Ontario's tree nurseries will be closed, the Chapleau and the Gogama facilities in 1992 and the Thunder Bay and Midhurst sites in 1993. Midhurst, the best nursery in the province of Ontario, with the best trees, is being closed. It's unthinkable. Premier Drury must be turning over in his grave. Again, this decision wasn't made on the basis of any long-term forest

management considerations—it was not not based on vision or planning—but because of fiscal desperation.

Sure, they're attempting to put a good face on these policy changes in order to justify what they're doing, but by an objective measure there isn't any question that what's happening seriously threatens forestry regeneration in the future of our province's forest products industry.

The future of the tree growers in northwestern Ontario is particularly grave because none of the growers has contracts from this government for seedling production for the 1993 season.

At the same time, there exists a serious lack of effort on the part of this minister to settle simple negotiations with paper companies that would enable direct contracting with tree seedling producers in northwestern Ontario. Seedling producers have been informed by the paper companies that they are ready and eager to negotiate for seedlings for 1993, but the holdup lies in the pulp and paper industry's inability to access the appropriate bureaucrats in order to come to an agreement.

The implications of this minister's misguided forest policy on the tree seedling industry and all those employed in it are obviously devastating. The ramifications for our forest are equally foreboding.

The minister's current budget allocates approximately \$230 million to forestry over the next three years. He plans to cut that budget by \$100 million—\$40 million to be slashed in the first year alone. Obviously, the minister's commitment to Ontario's forests is dead. Private nurseries are being methodically and deliberately put out of business because of the minister's misguided forest policy.

Let's face it: If the NDP members were in opposition instead of government today, they would be yelling and screaming about what's going on until they were blue in the face. To add insult to injury, beyond the repercussions for the forest industry itself, these decisions are all made at the height of a recession when we need this kind of investment the most. The major effects of the MNR expenditure cuts will be felt in northern Ontario.

The Ontario Silviculture Association, an organization of companies that plant trees, estimates that 2,000 to 3,000 jobs, mostly for students, were eliminated in the industry this summer. The ministry itself estimates that the closing of the four tree nurseries will cost 50 permanent jobs and 180 temporary positions.

Thunder Bay city council recently endorsed a report from the local tree seedling growers association which called on the NDP to ensure that 165 million trees are planted annually. In the Thunder Bay region alone the minister's cutbacks are costing an estimated 770 jobs, but the impact is being felt right across the province.

The cuts in the forestry regeneration program seriously jeopardize the future of our provincial forest products industry, an industry which supplies some 160,000 jobs in 40 communities. What this minister and his government colleagues don't seem to understand is that if the forest industry cannot be assured of a reliable supply of wood in the future, investments will be directed to other jurisdictions. Clearly, this government needs to be headed in a new direction.

At the same time the industry is under pressure in terms of increased international competition, new and stronger environmental requirements and cutbacks in pest control programs. All this and more, and yet after two years in office we still don't have any comprehensive vision or management plan from the current administration.

Maybe it's because, as some in the tree seedling growers association speculate, the current minister simply cannot balance his responsibilities in terms of both resources and native affairs. At the very least, many believe he has a conflict of interest, often at odds with each other. I agree.

The solution, however, involves much more than simply replacing the government's policies with new ones or even replacing the minister himself. I believe the solution lies in making a new and positive commitment to Ontario's forests, one that's bolstered by a long-term, comprehensive plan and sound professional management.

Conservation officers' budgets have been cut right across this province; they've been slashed as much as 50%. The conservation special investigations unit has been disbanded and reassigned in the name of reorganization. The minister fails to realize that Ontario's wildlife is a priority that deserves better protection, and that the taxpayer in Ontario deserves a level of service that is not just a shell of what it was in previous years.

Many complaints with regard to the outdoors card: The indication is that they will result in a 50% increase in the cost of going fishing. It is a licence to steal from hunters and anglers, because the minister probably will not use that revenue for assisting conservation officers, restocking fish and other conservation efforts, and that's what the money was really all about.

The increase for recreational lots on crown land in the north, including recreation camps for fishing and hunting, summer resort leases and cottage leases in provincial parks: They will result in annual increases of 15% or \$100, whichever is greater, until the rent based on market value is achieved over the next five years.

Many people have indicated to me that it's nothing but a blatant tax grab from the taxpayers and that the money that comes from fishing licences, hunting licences and all these things is not all going back to what it was intended for when that initiative for those licences was brought in by the previous administration.

I want to thank you, Mr Speaker, for the time I've had.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member for his participation. Further debate?

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): In the short time I have, I want to just outline some of the things this government has done around the question of mining.

I want to bring people up to speed on one particular thing that happened in northern Ontario with regard to a group called Save Our North that came together. This group is made up of prospectors, developers, people who are generally employed within the mining industry, municipal council people, local business people from across northern Ontario, but particularly based in the community of Timmins, where it really started off.

One of the things the Save Our North people were talking about was that in order to try to draw attention to some of the difficulties we're having within the mining industry here in Ontario but also generally across the country, one of the difficulties is that quite frankly nobody, for very many years, was really listening to what the mining industry was telling them was happening. Some of the difficulties that happened under the Conservative government, prior to 1985 and for the five years that we had Liberals on this side of the House, from 1985 up until 1990, were that there was really a feeling out there that those governments were not listening to what they were saying with regard to some of the real, systemic problems we have within the mining industry. They also tried to bring that message to the federal government, and unfortunately the federal government didn't respond.

When they initially approached me as the local member for Cochrane South, which is the city of Timmins, Iroquois Falls and Matheson, being from the mining industry, I understood somewhat what they were talking about but also took some time in order to try to organize us around how we would deal with that. To make a long story short, what Save Our North came up with was basically five conditions or five particular points it wanted governments to be able to address. I specify the word "governments," because it wasn't just a question of the province of Ontario, but also trying to get the federal government to come on side.

The Save Our North committee basically said we had to move on a number of points. One of the very important points was to put together the necessary infrastructure in order to support the mining industry, to help it to develop and find new mines. People who know something about geology know that yes, we probably do have some of the best geological areas in North America up in the Timmins and Kirkland Lake area, but to find a mine you need to have the tools to do so. Unfortunately, many of the tools they needed, as far as the supports the government can provide towards things like geoscience databases and different kinds of information, really weren't there in any type of coherent force.

So what we as a government did was we moved immediately, fairly shortly after we were approached by this group, to build a very good cooperation, and we put together a number of initiatives in order to be able to address some of the concerns of the mining industry. We put together the geoscience database, which is basically a database that puts together a lot of the exploration material we have within the ministry of mines and gives that, as a tool, to people who are in the prospecting business, to better aim where to go to take a look for mining within our area.

1700

With the federal government, we put together the northern Ontario development agreement, which is basically a pot of money that was put aside which had a number of different sections, one of them being mining. We put \$30 million towards mining in order to support research and development within the mining industry so we can learn how to do mining better, more efficiently and get a

better bang for a buck. Right now we're just going through the process of actually going through and doing some of those research projects that are out there in order to hone up on the technology of mining.

I want to take a second because a lot of people don't realize that mining is probably one of the most technologically advanced industries, if not in Ontario, probably in most of the world. In that kind of line, one of the things that we, as a government, try to do, working with Save Our North, is to draw the attention of the people of the province of Ontario and, quite frankly, some of the members of this Legislature to the whole system of mining.

One of the things we did was put together an information package through media advertising in southern Ontario and other means in order to get people to understand the importance of the mining industry as it relates to our economy. Unfortunately, many people in Ontario don't realize the importance, and when the Liberals were here for five years and the Conservatives before them, they took the mining industry for granted, and now we're having to deal with some very tough situations.

We also put together the assessment file research imaging system, which basically takes all the assessment files—we have some 35,000 of them in the province—and puts them on an imaging system, so again we can give tools to the mining industry and the prospectors to be able to come together and get the information together.

Interjection.

Mr Bisson: Obviously, the member from Etobicoke cares nothing about mining, but it is very important for the people in my area, sir.

As well, we put together the mineral deposits database, which basically lists all the known mineral deposits in Ontario on that database, again in order to give those miners and the developers the tools to be able to find places.

We also moved on a number of other initiatives. One of the things the mining industry said, which probably is not uncommon with another industry, was about some of the difficulties that industry has when it approaches government in regard to licensing and being able to get permits. One of the things that the Save Our North committee talked about was putting together a one-window approach to permitting when it came to being able to access permits in order to be able to work on properties up in northern Ontario when it comes to mining.

A very short time after we started working with Save Our North we signed MOUs between the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment and ourselves at the Ministry of Mines in order to create the Ministry of Mines as the one-window approach when it comes to permitting. We went a very long way towards making the whole business of how mining interacts with government much more effective and much more efficient.

One of the other things we did was that they had asked that the government come forward to try to find some sort of incentive program for the mining industry in order to assist them in the prospecting development and actually putting the mine on line. Unfortunately, the federal govern-

ment, for whatever reason, dismantled the flow-through share system that we had up until about four or five years ago all across Canada, which gave prospectors and mining companies, especially juniors, the ability to be able to raise capital to be able to invest within the mining industry.

We need to understand that every dollar invested in mining doesn't necessarily mean you find something. You have to spend huge amounts of money in prospecting in order to be able to find a property that it is actually economical to put on line. When the federal government—the Conservative government of all things, which is kind of strange—took that tool away, it sucked away the capital and the tools the mining industry needed in order to get the capital in place.

So they came to us, the New Democratic government of Ontario, and asked us to work on an incentive package with them. We just recently announced in September of this year, as a matter of fact, in Timmins, that the provincial government had put forward a number of ideas that were based on consultations we had with the mining industry. I say the word "consultation" because we have built a partnership with the mining industry and people associated with it in being able to work together to find solutions to very difficult problems that we have within the mining industry.

We are hoping to be able to come back very soon and put forward incentives that would assist the mining sector. Actually, the mining industry is quite pleased and quite excited about some of the initiatives that are coming forward.

I just want to finish on this note, because I have other northern colleagues who want to get up and who have a lot to contribute to this debate: It is very easy for the members of the opposition to sit here and criticize, and we understand that. That is a role of opposition. But we ask them to be somewhat constructive when it comes to their criticism, because they are not putting forward any kind of solutions to the problems we have in northern Ontario. All they are trying to do is accent the problems we have and basically play politics with this thing. The people of northern Ontario don't want to be played with. They want action. That's what this government is giving: action not only when it comes to the mining sector, but action when it comes to health care and other issues.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member for his participation. Further debate?

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I would just like to remind the honourable member of the \$30 million the Treasurer added to the mining tax, \$30 million you've taken away from the mining industry in your budget. I wish you had reminded the good people in the mining industry in northern Ontario about that good thing you did for them.

I think it's really delicious irony that we are able, after two years, sadly, I guess, to be able to put forward the very same motion the NDP caucus at the time, two years ago, had put forward. You will know, Mr Speaker, that this government has done nothing for northern Ontario. As was mentioned by my leader, as last night's results came forward,

there is a great dissatisfaction with this government and I'll tell you why.

There are nine members from northern Ontario who have been elected to this government, and I must say that the people of northern Ontario had very high expectations. With nine members in the governing party, and five of those in cabinet—

Mr Miclash: Six.

Mr Ramsay: Six in cabinet. Thank you. My colleague says it's actually six in cabinet—there would be a tremendously strong voice for northern Ontario in the Ontario cabinet and therefore maybe a lot of people would say finally there would be a government that would be addressing the issues of northern Ontario. But after two years in government, we find, no, that has not happened. There has not been that action for northern Ontario.

Thinking back on our government, the Liberal government, and what happened in regard to northern Ontario, I think I understand the reason. The reason is that we had a minister in the Liberal government by the name of René Fontaine, who came from Cochrane North, where I see the honourable member now sits on the governing side, and you know what the difference is? René Fontaine had a vision of what northern Ontario is about and should be about, and he had a vision that northern Ontarians should have the tools to rebuild their own economy, and he worked towards that vision.

One of the things he said was that northerners, number one, should have their fair share of the resources that all the taxpayers of Ontario put into the Ontario government. Therefore, he initiated a program, and it was very tough to do at the time, that pioneered moving Ontario public service jobs into northern Ontario. That was a tremendous move, not only for the economy of northern Ontario. Does the member for Sudbury shake her head that that's not a very good move, when Sudbury got many jobs, a couple of hundred jobs, I believe, at least? I think it's a darn good job. There's a nice building in Sudbury. I was at Laurentian University the other day.

But that was a policy of vision, because not only were these jobs coming to the main centres of northern Ontario to be an underpinning for the economy of northern Ontario, but more than that—and this is where the real wisdom comes in—Mr Fontaine ensured that a good portion of the civil service of Ontario shared and lived the experience of northern Ontario like we who come from the north do.

As those people progress through their ministries, and maybe come down to the head offices that are still in Toronto, those people will have experienced the north, they will understand the north, and when the 15 or 16 of us who are elected from all parties in northern Ontario come down here, we will be able to communicate with civil servants who have understood the north because they've lived in the north and they've worked in the north. I think that's a tremendous achievement.

What's sadly lacking here is a northern vision. I like the minister personally, but she doesn't have a northern vision. She doesn't have a vision that this is what she

would like to do for northern Ontario. We would like to see that, and we would ask, we would beg, the Minister of Northern Development to have that vision.

Let's look at some of the facts that we have over here, and I'm sure my colleagues will tell me when my time is up, if I do get a bit wound up.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I will.

Mr Ramsay: Yes, I think a few of them will.

What we've seen now is an unemployment rate of 18% in northern Ontario. In Sudbury, which isn't doing too bad, it's 14%, in Thunder Bay it's 10.8%, and these numbers are up from a year ago. The indicators, with the layoffs and the plant closures, are that these are going to be higher in the rest of this year.

It's clear that the NDP government is putting very little into the north, and again, let's just look at the facts. Let's look at the Ministry of Northern Development budget. The budget of the Ministry of Northern Development is now \$58 million short this year from last year. Why did you put in \$58 million less money in this year's budget?

Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines): Let's be fair, David; \$40 million was anti-recession money.

Mr Ramsay: Yes, okay; let's talk about that. When the minister says to me, "You're right," I want to acknowledge that, Minister.

1710

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Timiskaming has the floor. Other members will have the opportunity to participate. Please continue.

Mr Ramsay: I would like to acknowledge what the Minister of Northern Development said to me. I will acknowledge that the minister did put \$40.8 million in the anti-recession fund. That's \$40.8 million of \$700 million. We didn't even get our 10%. You'd think maybe we'd at least get our 10% because we represent 10% of the population. We didn't even get that, so it's another example of shortchanging.

Mr Bisson: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member says 10%. We provided 30% in anti-recession the first year. The numbers he's using are not factual.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I have not heard the point of order.

Mr Bisson: The member is using wrong figures. We spent 30% in the first year on anti-recession.

The Acting Speaker: That's a point of view.

Mr Ramsay: What did the government actually propose before they were in government? What they said they were going to do was propose a northern fund of \$400 million over two years, returning money to the north, it was their view. Well, we got \$40 million, not \$400 million.

What about regional economic development? The government had said it would work to help the communities of the north, southwestern, eastern and central Ontario seek ways to develop a sustainable economic development. We have not seen that.

The Minister of Health is here, and today she said that this government is spending \$11 million on the medical health travel grant program. It's a very good program, but what we're seeing is a lot of northerners having to come to southern Ontario to receive their health care, rather than the government moving on its promise. The NDP had said it would develop a medical school in the north in order to have medical trainees practise and train in the north so that they would stay in the north. We don't see that happening.

What you've done is capped the doctors there, and now 33 doctors have left Sudbury. So now our people have to come down to southern Ontario because the northern doctors are now being capped in their incomes. These aren't northern doctors who have gross incomes for themselves; these are northern doctors who have staff and other practitioners working with them and that's why their gross incomes are so high. These have been capped. Why have all these doctors left Sudbury? You've got to be working with the medical practitioners in the north. That's what we want to see.

Some of my colleagues have mentioned—I know the member for Nipissing had mentioned—highways. When we were in government, we had announced that we would commence the four-laning of Highway 11 and Highway 69 to northern Ontario. We have not seen the commitment from this government as to the plans, the schedule of that, as this party had called for while in opposition. We have not seen that.

The Minister of Northern Development in her campaign literature had said she would like to have equalized gasoline prices right across the province. That's a real motherhood issue for northern Ontario.

I am getting the hook, Mr Speaker, but I wish the minister would work on that, because we see prices of 49 cents and 52 cents in southern Ontario, and up in Hearst it's 69 cents today as we speak. That's intolerable for northern Ontario.

I'd like to lend the floor to my colleagues over here in the Tory party so that my colleagues can get back at this. Mr Speaker, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on this motion today.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Further debate?

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): In following the member for Timiskaming, I will mention part of the subject I thought he would go into, that is, the Adams mine site in Kirkland Lake. Indeed, he should be open to some of these possibilities because it's a classic instance where this government has failed to respond to the interests and needs of a community. Since he didn't do it, I'm certainly pleased to talk on it.

As a starting point, every one of us should stop and listen to the north. The sound of the people from the north is one where they're crying out for attention, not only for jobs but for their economy and for support from this government at Queen's Park, so that we stop thinking in an insulated way that separates southern Ontario from northern Ontario. We've really got to have a sense of one whole province trying to work together. The fact that we're

spending some time considering needs of northern Ontario this afternoon is indeed a credit to this House. If only the government would adhere to some of the thoughts and the considerations that are being tabled.

For the longest time now, our caucus has been placing considerable attention on how we can help build a stronger economy in northern Ontario. In fact, a large number of members from our caucus have been there specifically to visit the Adams mine site in Kirkland Lake, to see just what can be done there and just what it does offer to that community. The member for Mississauga South, the member for Dufferin-Peel and myself, along with our own northern members, have been to that site to speak with the people and try to appreciate just what could happen to northern Ontario if this government were to consider rail haul.

Rail haul to Kirkland Lake is an option that has been closed off under Bill 143 and has not been considered. We beseech this government to open up its mind to consider the possibility of rail haul to northern Ontario as a way of disposing of Metro's waste. That has been a concern we've expressed before. Again in this motion from the north on the north, why can't we do it?

We're talking about jobs. We're talking about a resource, which Metro is just going to bury in very expensive ground, that can be rail hauled to northern Ontario. We're talking about a community where 69% of that community said, "Let's at least look at it." Let's put it through an environmental assessment process so that we can study the benefits of rail haul to northern Ontario. We've got the Adams mine. It's a site ready for it. We're talking about a community that's ready for it. We're talking about over 200 jobs that could be generated within Kirkland Lake area.

We're talking about communities that are on the record saying, "We want it." The corporation of North Bay, Fort Frances, Sault Ste Marie, Espanola and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities are on record asking the province—Ruth Grier, Bob Rae—to look at rail haul, and yet this government refuses to do so. All we're doing is bringing forward to this government what it means to look at all the options, and one of the options has to be to help the north.

All you can do as a government is somehow put a Berlin wall around Durham and Peel and say: "You're going to look after your garbage there. You cannot, as the greater Toronto area, look outside those borders." We're challenging the government again today to say, open up the borders, open up the option of rail haul, so that we can then have at least one option considered. This government refuses to have the openness of mind to look at those things.

We're talking about revenue that can be generated in the north. The Ontario Northland Railway will generate something like \$13.5 million a year. That railroad is in jeopardy right now, because no longer are we shipping the ores, metals and resources from the north to the south. We're seeing the loss of jobs in that railway. If we come along and start shipping through a rail haul proposal that's

been put forward by Rail Cycle North, we then have another way of making use of that railroad.

We're talking about the municipalities in the area that could benefit by up to \$80 million over a 20-year period. A huge sum of money comes into the north. What we see as waste they can take as a resource and do something with it, not just bury it. The traditional flow of north to south can now be reversed and from the south they can make use of a resource we no longer have need for.

We're talking about communities that want to become involved in solving their own problem, yet Ruth Grier hasn't been there to look at the situation at the Adams mine site. Talk about government: We could barely get the committee of the Legislature, when it was studying Bill 143, to go up north. But we did it. If only now the government could open its logic a little bit further and allow this to become a viable option for consideration under the Environmental Assessment Act. That is what we're asking for. The people of the north want it. What's happening to the minister of northern resources? Where has she been?

Mr Stockwell: They ship a million tonnes to the States.

Mr Cousens: That's for sure. We can ship it to the States, but when it comes to using a resource in Ontario to help the north, it just doesn't seem to happen.

1720

When we're talking about responsible government, we're talking about being responsive to the needs of the communities you're serving, and as a caucus, we are anxious to do just that for the people of the north. Under our leader Mike Harris we are trying to do that, and I'm suggesting there's still time for this government to open up the rail haul option.

I call upon the Minister of Northern Development, I call upon the Minister of the Environment, I call upon Bob Rae, the Premier, to open up other options for the north. Rail haul of Metro's garbage is certainly an option that needs to be considered and it's time this government took it far more seriously than it has to this point.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Hon Bud Wildman: In the short time I have, I want to express my appreciation to the members of the opposition for bringing this matter before the House, and I want to concentrate specifically on forestry.

I will not, of course, respond to the allegation that nothing is being done in the north, when I come from an area where Algoma Steel is very important. I want to deal, though, particularly with forestry. There's no question that forestry is of very great importance in northern Ontario and it is important for jobs in our part of the province. When I came into this position after the election in 1990, I was determined that we should move forward with development of a policy for sustainable forestry to manage on an ecosystem basis rather than continuing the ad hoc approach, the approach that only concentrated on timber values.

All of us from northern Ontario recognize the significant importance of timber and timber values for many communities, as many as 40 communities across our part of the province, but it is unacceptable for us to continue to manage forests only on the basis of timber and the provi-

sion of fibre for the mills. It ignores all of the other values that are important in terms of forest management if it's done on an ecosystem basis. Tourism, fish and wildlife habitat, the aesthetics of wilderness, conservation, old growth—all of these values must be taken into account if we're going to have a true forest policy rather than just a timber policy.

In this province we have never had a forest policy, despite what my friend from Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, the united counties in southern Ontario, had to say about what he called a vision for northern Ontario, a vision for forestry under the Conservative government. The fact is, we have never had a forest policy in this province.

First, we established an audit, the first on-ground audit, to look at the boreal forest and the cutting that has been done over the last 20 years, to determine what kinds of sites, what types of approaches to regeneration are the best over the last 20-year period. That audit is going to report in the next couple of weeks, and hopefully it will give us some indication as to how much money we should indeed be investing with regard to reforestation, with regard to planting, with regard to artificial regeneration, as opposed to alternative approaches to harvesting that are so important for silviculture.

As was mentioned in the debate, we established an old-growth policy approach where we are consulting widely across the province to develop an old-growth policy with a lay panel, along with a blue ribbon scientific panel, to advise the government, first on an old-growth policy for red and white pine, and then subsequent to that to move forward next year to look at an old-growth policy for other species.

We froze the 10 sites that have been identified by the work done under the previous government from harvesting to protect them while this work is ongoing, and I'm happy to say that we look forward before the end of this fiscal year to the interim report of that work.

We've put a tremendous amount of money into research, into alternatives with regard to vegetation management to get away from chemical spraying, herbicides. We are involved in a number of initiatives with regard to moving forward on a scientific basis for biodiversity development and biodiversity management in our forests.

Of course, if we're going to have sustainable forestry, we must also have sustainable industry, forest industries in sustainable communities, and for that reason we established a forest industries action group to bring together management, labour and government to work together for changes in the lumber and pulp and paper industries so that we could improve the profitability of those industries in the future, develop new technologies and make it possible for us to respond to environmental and technological needs to ensure that we indeed can move forward with new approaches with regard to environmental protection, recycling, de-inking, new uses of underutilized fibre and so on, so that we have new opportunities for employment in northern communities.

It has been indicated in the debate that we have had serious difficulties in this current revenue situation. Obviously when we came to power it would have been far preferable,

we all admit that, if we could have initiated these programs with regard to sustainable forestry while maintaining the approach that had been taken in the past with regard to forest management, so that we would not have to face a situation of cutbacks in that area, so that we could maintain our sustainable forestry initiatives.

Unfortunately, with the decline in revenues it has not been possible for us to do that. We haven't been able to continue the plantation of seedlings at the rate that it has been done in the past, 165 million seedlings a year. But unlike the previous government when it was unable to meet this commitment, we did not dump seedlings, we did not bury seedlings. We ensured that those seedlings were indeed planted across the province. Operation Tree Plant was an enormous success. We planted 159 million seedlings last year despite the fact that we only had funding for considerably less than that.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): How many did you shred?

Hon Mr Wildman: We didn't. That's the difference between our approach and yours.

We are currently exploring other alternatives, other approaches, for ensuring that we will be able to enter into new arrangements with the industry to ensure that we will have new approaches, not only to plantation but also to tending, site preparation and silviculture in general. Obviously there has to be a new partnership between the private sector and government if we're going to be able to meet our responsibilities on a sustainable basis.

I will just conclude by saying that in terms of sustainable industry, if anybody questions our commitment to the forest products industry, one just has to look at Spruce Falls and the efforts this government has made with the investment of time and taxpayers' dollars to ensure that we could indeed have a community worker buyout in that operation, have it continue to operate and turn a profit. That's what we mean by sustainable communities, sustainable industry and sustainable forestry for northern Ontario. If there's any question about our commitment, just look at Spruce Falls.

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue): I'm very pleased to have the opportunity today to speak against this motion. As a lifelong resident of Thunder Bay, I am well aware of the neglect and suffering the north has experienced under previous governments in this province. Frankly, I'm surprised that the opposition would make such accusations. I am very proud of what my government has accomplished to undo some of the damage and address the neglect of past administrations, and I am very pleased that this government has made the north a priority.

The Leader of the Opposition, the member for Fort William, knows as well as I do the many projects this government has funded, the initiatives we have supported and the services we have helped provide throughout the north and in Thunder Bay in particular. Many other services for outlying areas are based in Thunder Bay, the hub of northwestern Ontario. This government has maintained services to those outlying areas and in fact expanded and improved many of those services.

I reject the opposition's accusation that this government hasn't addressed the issues of economic diversification and job creation in the north. We have supported many initiatives that address economic concerns of northern communities.

In September 1991 this government took effective control of UTDC in Thunder Bay to prevent its closure. UTDC has been the sole supplier of rail cars to both the Toronto Transit Commission and GO Transit. It has also made sales to other provinces, the United States and internationally. This government negotiated the sale of the transit-related assets of UTDC to Bombardier. The actions of this government helped to save and secure some 675 jobs in this vital industry in Thunder Bay.

1730

This government was also instrumental in helping to keep western Canadian coal coming through the port of Thunder Bay, which saved more than 200 jobs in the city and is expected to save Ontario Hydro \$80 million this year.

With funding from the Northern Ontario Development Corp and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp, this government was also able to help bring Leo Sakata Electronics and Earnway Industries to Thunder Bay. These plants officially opened in August of last year and continue to grow.

Through some \$2.2 million in Jobs Ontario Capital funding, this government has supported projects such as establishment of the Pigeon River Tourist Information Centre, improvements to Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital and improvements to Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

In regard to health care, one of the most notable examples of expanded services is the network of regional diabetes resource centres we have established, as already mentioned by the Minister of Health. This government has provided \$500,000 for startup costs and is committed to providing the \$5 million needed annually to deliver this crucial health care service.

Another significant and unique health care service this government is supporting is the Ogden-East End Community Health Centre in the Leader of the Opposition's riding. This centre is unique because it was designed to specifically meet the health care needs of the residents of the community. Due to the \$2.5 million provided by this government, the Ogden-East End Community Health Centre is currently under construction and is expected to be fully operational by the summer of 1993.

Just last week, this government supported another crucial health care service. The Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Centre received \$3 million in capital funding from the province and additional funding for operating costs.

Through the anti-recession program, this government provided Faye Peterson Transition House in Thunder Bay with a capital grant of \$834,000 to build a new centre. Faye Peterson Transition House is an emergency centre for abused women and their children. This shelter provides a vital service to clients from across northwestern Ontario. Health care in Thunder Bay is definitely a priority of this government.

Confederation College and Lakehead University in Thunder Bay have both received considerable support

from this government. Some of the capital projects we have funded include a new hospitality, travel and tourism training centre at the college, a new health sciences resource centre at the university and, also at the university, a new music centre and visual arts building.

I'm also pleased to take this opportunity to inform the members opposite that this government has provided substantial funding for road improvements. Highway 61 is an example of this.

We've also provided capital funding for volunteer fire departments in Pass Lake, Shuniah and Oliver township.

In Thunder Bay, the program for renewal, improvement, development and economic revitalization has provided funding for road reconstruction, streetscape improvements and repairs to sidewalks, curbs and gutters. The PRIDE program is one way this government is actively involved in ensuring that all our communities stay vital, attractive and economically sound.

In my riding, this government also funded the reconstruction of Highway 587, a \$2.2-million project that includes widening the road and shoulders, repairs to frost heaves and improvement of highway drainage.

This government has also supported and recognized the importance of literacy programs in the north. A literate workforce is of paramount importance. Accordingly, this government has supported literacy programs in Thunder Bay, such as the ones offered by the Indian Youth Friendship Society, the native employment opportunities program, the Canadian Hearing Society and the Literacy Coalition of Thunder Bay.

I know the opposition finds it very difficult to hear of all the great things this government is doing for the north, but it is happening there.

The neglect of past administrations in this province has caused damage that my government is committed to repairing. This government has clearly made the north our priority and will continue to do so. I'm proud of what this NDP government has accomplished, and though we know there is more to be done, we must remember that government money is taxpayers' money.

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): Generally one would say that one is pleased to participate in a debate. Today, I think I can say I'm saddened to be participating in the debate, mostly because the reality in northern Ontario today is not the rhetoric we're hearing across the floor.

The reality in northern Ontario today is an unemployment rate of 18%. In my riding and in most rural ridings across the north, we would consider 18% unemployment to be a vast improvement. If you are talking to your constituents out there, if you're talking to the people, they will say that what the government is saying across the floor sounds good but, boy, does it feel bad. Sounds good, feels bad.

I want just to take you to Sault Ste Marie last Thursday night. Some 500 northern women and men in the business community gathered together to present their annual awards. Not one minister of the crown appeared at that particular gathering. They talk about partnerships, but where are they? They're not there; they're not encouraging the growth in the private sector; they're not making things happen. All you have to do is talk to the folks in my riding,

in Mr Wildman's riding, across the north, who want jobs and can't find them.

I want to talk specifically about my riding for a moment. I want to talk about probably the worst economic situation in the province of Ontario, in the Elliot Lake area. People in the Elliot Lake area need some hope; they need some action. They don't need any more rhetoric. In the Elliot Lake area they want real jobs. They don't want make-work jobs, although they're happy that some of those have been provided. They want real jobs.

This government by its action has, under its instructions, laid off 1,700 people in Elliot Lake. What is their response? "There's some money." That's nice, but the real things that will make real things happen in this area are the things they promised after the election. They promised they would expedite Patten Post. They promised they would help with a cogeneration plant at Algoma Mills.

These are the things that make sense for both the province of Ontario and the people I represent and the people I think Mr Wildman represents just across the line. They make sense, but what does this government do? It defers them. "We don't need the power," they say, but they're happy to go ahead with other hydro projects. If you can believe it, this green NDP government is going to build or refurbish two coal plants. Can you believe it? This is the green party—coal plants. We only want the government to do some things that make sense. If they would do some things that make sense in my riding we would have real jobs.

I talk about a seniors' campus in Elliot Lake. We've been very successful in the community with the seniors' retirement living program. It's working, but we need more facilities. We've been talking about this in the community for some years. It is needed; it has to happen. Where is that? "Well, it's being studied." We talk about the French college, something that makes sense that this government says it's committed to. Why don't you consider Elliot Lake and why don't you get going? There's just nothing happening out there. The phones are on hold. These things make sense and they need to happen now, because there are going to be 600 more men and women laid off in this community in about three years. It's got to happen, and it's the story of the north.

Mr Wildman and budget cuts; Ms Martel and budget cuts—and this in a time—I've heard this rhetoric over there, "We're under constraint." The fact is, real government spending, adjusted for inflation, is the highest under this government in two years that it has ever been, so they're not afraid to spend bucks. They're spending money, real money, adjusted for inflation, faster than anybody.

So what's happening to northern Ontario? What's happening to my constituents? I can't explain it. I don't know, but I'm the guy who has to sit in the constituency office and see the folks, the grown men, 40 years old, coming in and saying: "Mike, I had a job that employed me. I made \$40,000 a year. I have grade 4 education. They won't retrain me. They won't do anything for me." What do I say to him? At times I get angry and feel outraged because I'm out there, as I'm sure other northern members are, with real people with real problems who want real jobs, and all we get is rhetoric. Sounds good; feels bad.

1740

I listened to the Minister of Natural Resources, and as his critic, I want to echo the words of the Tory, Mr McLean, who talked about the forestry regeneration program. Mr Wildman says: "We can't do it. We've got to cut it back because I want to do studies." I'll tell you, doing studies ain't going to cut it. We need the jobs now; the forest needs the trees now. It is the most ludicrous approach to both the environment and forest regeneration that has ever been expressed, and to dress it up by talking about committees—I think they're good. They should be going on. But if you're replacing real forest regeneration with all these nice projects which employ consultants, not many of my people get many jobs, and I think that's what's making us in the north so angry.

I can talk about ambulance services that have been cut. I can talk about patients the Sudbury General Hospital trauma unit doesn't want to take, because they require intensive care, from the Manitoulin Health Centre. I could talk about things real people are really worried about out there, and all we get is rhetoric. We get less dollars, but if rhetoric was money, we'd be doing swell.

I have to yield the floor at this point. I have a lot more to say and certainly will at another opportunity.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Hon Miss Martel: I'm very pleased to participate in the debate this afternoon and I want to thank my northern colleagues from this caucus and certainly the Minister of Health as well for participating. I appreciate their contribution and I appreciate the hard work they do every day for people in our special part of the province.

I want to focus on what I think is a very special effort this government has made in respect to dealing with partnerships in communities that have been in crisis in northern Ontario. Where I disagree fundamentally with the member for Parry Sound when he talked about this very issue is that I don't think any other government would have done what we did in Kapuskasing, in Elliot Lake, in Sault Ste Marie, in Sturgeon Falls and in Atikokan. I don't believe it for one moment.

His federal government was asked in each of those cases to participate with us to try and rebuild those communities. We got no response from the federal government on any of those communities. I want to remind him of that.

I don't think the Liberal Party, when it was in government, would have done what we did in any of those communities, and I just give you an example of what we did in Kapuskasing when we set up legislation to allow workers to participate in their own companies. I remember all the criticism we heard from the Liberals at that time, but that's what saved Kapuskasing. I want to remind the Liberals about that.

Let's look at what we did in those communities. In Kapuskasing, the community was facing a very difficult time. The president of Kimberly-Clark announced in 1989 that he would give the company away. The only condition was that someone would have to buy Smoky Falls dam and that someone had to be Ontario Hydro.

We entered into a very difficult period of negotiation with the community, with the trade unions that were in-

involved, with the business community, with Hydro, with a number of ministries, and in June found we could not at that time enter into the kind of partnership they wanted, because we believed that not everyone had brought enough to the table. We went back to the table in July and early in August were very pleased to announce that more people had come to the table, that they had brought more money with them, and with a much greater effort we put together a deal that saved that community.

I am pleased to announce that in June of this year the company reported a profit of \$2 million. The second thing that's happened is that the company has also let \$200 million in contracts to build a new thermal mechanical pulp plant. That's a community that's surviving because of this government and because of the partnerships we developed there.

I want to say to the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, with respect to Elliot Lake, that no government has done more than we have to help out his community. We put \$15 million into his community in December 1990 to have a program of economic diversification. That was \$5 million more than his government was prepared to do just during the election campaign—par hasard—of September 1990. We put together a \$250-million diversification package for his community, because it was the right thing to do. I have no regrets for what we did in his community: \$160 million to maintain Rio Algom's operation till 1996; \$65 million for short- and long-term diversification efforts in the community; another \$25 million for energy initiatives in that community.

The member does a disservice to the people on the working group, who have worked very, very hard to have projects come into their community. When he says there is no one at the end of the line, he does a disservice to them, because they are working very hard. They have created a great deal of short-term employment in the community. I have no doubt that they will succeed, and I hope he gets on board to work with us in that regard.

Let's talk about Sturgeon Falls as well. The community of Sturgeon Falls, at the MacBlo plant, had to shut down one of their operations. They came to the government last April looking for some funding in order to establish recycling at that plant.

We did a couple of things that were very different, that no other government has done. First of all, we passed legislation in this House—I want to say that the member for Nipissing was involved in that, and I thank him for that—to allow a joint venture between five communities involved in an economic development corporation, to allow them to go to the bank with MacMillan Bloedel and with the government to borrow money to build that recycling plant.

That project is worth \$15 million. Some \$4 million came from the Northern Ontario Heritage Corp; \$4 million came from the Ministry of the Environment. The communities, in partnership with MacBlo, will go and will build the rest together.

I want to talk about the local partnership. The people in the community have agreed to raise \$1 million as part of their contribution. The other interesting thing that has never been done before is that through that partnership, a

portion of the funds and the profits that come from that particular recycling plant will be diverted back to the five communities through the economic development corp; again, a very clear sign of a partnership between this government, a major corporation and five communities that were very much interested in seeing how we could protect their future, and how they could indeed have a future.

My colleague from Rainy River already spoke. In the case of Atikokan, when I was there in February of 1991, there was 80% unemployment. The two major employers were down. Working with both the two companies, Proboard and Atikokan Forest Products, we managed to get both of those companies back up. In the case of Proboard, we provided funds to allow the local people to buy the plant from the American partners. Both of those plants are operating, people are back to work, and it was a credit to a lot of people at the heritage fund, to the local community and to members of our government that got that back up.

Just very quickly, in terms of capital investment, I want to focus on this again and clarify some errors.

We received 30% of all of the anti-recession funds: 30% of \$700 million. In community after community that I have travelled in, that fund was the only thing that allowed local people to get back to work, to purchase goods and services. In many communities, it was the only thing that went on last summer, and I'm proud to say we were a part of it.

This year, in terms of Jobs Ontario Capital funding, the north has receive \$140 million dollars out of a possible \$500 million this year for very needed projects in many, many of our communities. Add to that \$3.4 billion of regular capital funding that we have; much of that is going to northern Ontario.

I am proud of the work we are doing in this government in northern Ontario. It's a record that I'm very pleased to defend and one that I'm pleased to stand upon.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: I moved this resolution because of a couple of things—

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The Liberals have got a lot of nerve moving this resolution.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, thank you for trying to bring the member for Nickel Belt under control. I moved this motion because of the very serious difficulties that face the people of northern Ontario. In many ways it is, as my colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin said, a very sad day when we have to bring these motions to the floor.

Let me explain to the people who may be watching what an opposition day is. This is the only time when the people on this side of the House can actually take issues about which we are very concerned and bring them to the floor of the House so that this Legislature can vote on the issue of whether or not more needs to be done to sustain economies in places like northern Ontario.

1750

Mr Speaker, you will know, along with the people in this House who are members, that the government has had its way with the rules. In fact, under your inimitable guid-

ance in the constituency of Victoria-Haliburton, you have just read into the record today a petition which talks about giving people more time to address the issues.

Today, we have had merely 48 minutes per caucus to talk about something which has been serious for some time. I admit that, as a member one time of the Liberal government from 1985 to 1990. Even prior to that, in the days of the Conservative government, it was a serious problem, and it is now, some two years-plus under the administration of the New Democratic Party of this province, a terrible problem.

We have people who are thrown out of work. We have people who have no hope at all of going back into gainful employment because we have not been able to come to grips with a strategy which really works. We have, from time to time, people making announcements on behalf of the government which have very high-sounding principles, very high-sounding rhetoric, but which are very short indeed on long-term and far-reaching effects for the interests of the people of this province.

It did not use to be good enough for the party of the people, so described, the New Democratic Party, to come around and rant about how many jobs it had saved if there were one or two people who were displaced from their work by the inevitable restructuring that has been going on in this province for some time. But we saw it here today as minister after minister rationalized the existence of their government and their programs in northern Ontario, complaining about this being the best they could do under the circumstances. "We put a few dollars here; we put a few million dollars here."

It surprised me to no end that there has been a declaration of the salvation of several communities on the part of various ministers of this administration today: Kapuskasing is saved, and all of those terrible consequences that have befallen the men and women who are now laid off as a result of the restructuring of that paper plant—well, they're saved. The fact that they think they're unemployed doesn't matter. They've been saved by the New Democrats. The fact that there are men and women who are out of work in Elliot Lake does not matter, because there are people who have been saved.

But it didn't use to be good enough for the New Democrats to save one and give up on two. It didn't use to be good enough to have an organization come together and say it's shutting whole parts of plants down. It didn't use to be good enough for those people not to be able to access health care. It didn't use to be good enough to find that products that we used to make in profusion in northern Ontario were no longer needed.

But under this administration which has taken over the administration of this province from September 6, 1990, it has now become good enough to look at men and women permanently out of employ, to look at men and women permanently unable to access facilities that used to provide good, incredible health care.

It is good enough to have rough roads and bad roads in northern Ontario. It is good enough for the New Democratic Party of Ontario not to four-lane northern highways. And it is good enough for these people, now that they are in government, to turn their backs on the commitments

they made during the elections which promised everything, indeed so much, to the people of northern Ontario.

The New Democratic Party, to be quite frank, has given up on the principles that it used to stand for. They have given up wanting to provide universal health care to the people of this province. They are chopping services. You can't get the drugs you used to get, you can't get the care you used to get if you're out of province, and you can't access a whole series of services that you used to be able to get in this province, because the New Democratic Party has turned its back on the principle of universal health care and it has turned its back on the issue and the principle of full employment for this province. All you have you do is look around the communities of northern Ontario to find evidence everywhere.

We could go to the rest of the province and we'd find and discover that the New Democrats have turned their backs on all of the principles they used to have in all parts of this province. But it is enough to know today that the people of northern Ontario deserve better than these New Democrats are willing to give.

The Acting Speaker: Mr Elston has moved:

"That this House condemns the government of Ontario for its failure to recognize:

"That northern Ontario has been a source of enormous wealth for the private sector;

"That northern Ontario has been a source of enormous revenues for the provincial government;

"That the provincial government puts very little revenue back into the north;

"That the roads in northern Ontario are in terrible shape;

"That the NDP government has not proceeded with serious four-laning of highways in the north;

"That the delivery of health care services in the north is still inferior;

"That northern municipalities have particular problems of boom and bust while the NDP government freezes unconditional grants;

"That forestry jobs are threatened because of this government's failure to live up to its commitment to provide seedlings and because of the continuing practice of clear-cutting;

"That almost no attempts have been made to diversify the economy to create jobs nor to work with the private sector and create meaningful jobs when serious layoffs occur;

"That the Ontario government continues to treat northern Ontario citizens like second-class citizens."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Call in the members.

The division bells rang from 1757 to 1802.

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the members to please take their seats.

Mr Elston has moved:

"That this House condemns the government of Ontario for its failure to recognize:

"That northern Ontario has been a source of enormous wealth for the private sector;

"That northern Ontario has been a source of enormous revenues for the provincial government;

"That the provincial government puts very little revenue back into the north;

"That the roads in northern Ontario are in terrible shape;

"That the NDP government has not proceeded with serious four-laning of highways in the north;

"That the delivery of health care services in the north is still inferior;

"That northern municipalities have particular problems of boom and bust while the NDP government freezes unconditional grants;

"That forestry jobs are threatened because of this government's failure to live up to its commitment to provide seedlings and because of the continuing practice of clear-cutting;

"That almost no attempts have been made to diversify the economy to create jobs nor to work with the private sector and create meaningful jobs when serious layoffs occur;

"That the Ontario government continues to treat northern Ontario citizens like second-class citizens."

All those in favour of the motion will please rise one at a time.

Ayes

Arnott, Beer, Brown, Carr, Chiarelli, Conway, Cordiano, Cousens, Cunningham, Curling, Daigeler, Elston, Eves, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Jordan, Mahoney, Mancini, McClelland, McGuinty, McLean, Miclash, Murdoch (Grey), Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Ramsay, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve.

Nays

Akande, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Farnan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard;

Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Pilkey, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Ward (Don Mills), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 36, the nays 63.

The Acting Speaker: The ayes being 36 and the nays 63, I declare the motion lost.

It now being past 6 of the clock, this House does now adjourn until tomorrow at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1808.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Eglinton Elgin	Poole, Dianne	L	
	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winner, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	
Mississauga East/-Est Mississauga North/-Nord Mississauga South/-Sud	Sola, John Offer, Steven Marland, Margaret	L L PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Mahoney, Steven W. Waters, Daniel	L ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Attorney General/Procureur général Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
St. George-St. David	Vacant		opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

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Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Social development/Affaires sociales

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Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler

Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer

Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

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No. 73A

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 28 October 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 28 octobre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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Renseignements sur l'Index

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 28 October 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

YOUVILLE CENTRE

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): On October 9, 1992, I had the pleasure of attending a unique high school graduation for 23 young mothers from the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Youville Centre is a high school for 30 mothers, where they learn at their own pace, secure in the knowledge that their babies and young children are being cared for in the adjoining day care.

In 1987, Sister Betty Anne Kinsella, recognizing a need within the community for an educational setting that could meet the special needs of young single mothers to complete their high school diploma, took up the challenge. With the assistance of the McHugh school and the Ministry of Education, the Youville Centre was established on Melrose Avenue. Three teachers are on staff to assist the students with their studies. Two day cares, one for infants and one for toddlers, provide child care services.

To date, 63 young women have graduated from Youville Centre. Many have gone on to university, community college and employment, but all have a common goal: to better themselves and provide a future for their children. Support services such as counselling, nutrition, parenting, legal and medical services are all available. A residence has been established that will accommodate up to five mothers and babies.

I have visited the centre and witnessed first hand the exceptional work that is being done and the results that come from providing assistance on a grass-roots level. At this time, there is a lengthy waiting list for entry to Youville. The centre is hoping to move to larger quarters in order to accommodate more young mothers and children.

To the director, Sister Betty Anne Kinsella, to the school principal, Tom White, to the teachers, day care workers and support staff, I extend my thanks for their diligence and dedication in providing the opportunity for these women to complete their education and become better prepared to contribute to society. However, my biggest "thank you" goes out to the young mothers who, in overcoming countless obstacles, have risen to the challenge and worked hard to achieve success.

OWEN SOUND SUN TIMES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): A year ago I advised the Minister of Municipal Affairs that he had misjudged Grey county's views on land planning because he listened to only two sources of information: a tiny group of malcontented, displaced city people and the Owen Sound Sun Times.

I pointed out that the Sun Times was out of touch with the reality of the county, and as proof I offered the results

of the 1991 municipal election, where voters had chosen candidates who represented their views and not the views of the editorial board of the Sun Times.

I am now pleased to be able to advise the minister that all this may have changed. The paper has a new editor, Jim Merriam, who seems to understand the people in the area which he serves. Although he has been there only a short time, he appears to be leading the staff in a new and positive direction. Grey county council is no longer receiving negative assaults which serve no purpose and seem to come from left field. The views of all the people, the ones who own and work their land, are being respected again. The views of a small, disgruntled minority are not the only ones represented.

It is with cautious hope that I tell the minister that while I still feel strongly that he should consult with local officials and get his sense of Grey and Grey's needs, he can once again rely on the Owen Sound Sun Times for a clear, more objective picture of the riding.

IROQUOIS FALLS CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Iroquois Falls Cross-Country Ski Club in the community of Iroquois Falls within our riding.

It's quite an interesting process they went through. This particular club formed some 10 or 15 years ago. A number of citizens within the community of Iroquois Falls came together in order to develop a cross-country ski club to give some recreation and entertainment for the people of the town of Iroquois Falls and surrounding areas.

What's to be noted here is that they are a club that did not necessarily sit back and wait for government grants or sit back and wait for things to be done. This group, being very active, went out on its own and developed much of its trail system, and much of the work was done without government help. Basically, they did it on their own. I'm proud to say that the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, under the leadership of Mr North, has granted money in order to buy trail groomers and different equipment, but overall most of that work was done on their own.

I would like to say that one of the things they did which I take a lot of pride in is that they had to build themselves a ski chalet. Unfortunately, they couldn't get the money through the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation because of the tough economic times that we're going through, so decided to do it on their own. They pulled together students from local high schools to become part of the labour of building this thing, and it really became a labour of love for this particular community and the people of the town of Iroquois Falls.

I want to tip my hat to them as their local member. I appreciate and I respect the hard work they have done in order to make the community of Iroquois Falls a better place for everyone. We salute them for their efforts.

RED HILL CREEK EXPRESSWAY

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): Two years ago this December, the NDP made its decision to backtrack on provincial funding of the Red Hill Creek Expressway in Hamilton. Two years of government inaction have gone by and the government has offered no new solutions to the traffic infrastructure problem it created by cancelling funding.

Our leader recently asked Hamilton citizens to tell us how they feel about the issue, and almost every response demands immediate action to start building the Red Hill Creek Expressway now.

As one of the respondents put it, "The people of Hamilton-Wentworth now regret the mistake of electing the NDP government." Another resident wrote: "Cancellation of the Red Hill Creek Expressway is the greatest mistake that the present government could make. It is detrimental to Hamilton industry." Still another resident says: "I have expressed my opinion to the MPP for Wentworth East on this issue. Unfortunately, he would not even acknowledge my letter. I assume it is because he cannot democratically justify his position."

In the next few days our caucus is going to put a number of these responses on the record. We're going to give voice to the outrage that people in Hamilton feel over the NDP funding cut, in an effort to try and convince the NDP to change its position and build the Red Hill Creek Expressway now. It is urgently needed.

LONDON INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Members of the London business community, educators and the three local boards of education in London have assembled a joint task force called the London Investment in Education Council. Its mandate is to create and provide a better understanding for students as to how education is directly linked to career opportunities.

The council's first major initiative, titled Do Jobs Grow on Trees, is a city-wide industry open house. Over 50 London industries, businesses and institutions are opening their doors for up to 5,000 grade 8 students on October 27, 28 and 29.

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Spearheaded by 3M Canada, this endeavour will provide hands-on demonstrations and employee-student interaction to increase the awareness of current emerging careers for students, educators and parents. Included in the list of participating businesses are General Motors, Canada Post, Sifton Properties, Fanshawe College, the University of Western Ontario, University Hospital, Emco and 3M Canada.

Last Tuesday at a news conference to announce this important initiative, I joined representatives of the three local school boards; Dr Bill Coyne, president and general manager of 3M, and two grade 8 students from St Mary Separate School, Shauna Birke and Dan Murphy. The students reminded us that they were certain that projects such as this and future efforts by that task force will make it easier for students to make the right decisions when choosing their course direction at the secondary level.

I compliment all involved in this project.

CITIZENSHIP COURT

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): Today I'd like to express my displeasure at what happened during the referendum, but I'm sure Canada will grow and become a stronger place. I rise to tell the members about an event held in Wilmot township in September which gave me the opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to Canada.

Special thanks go to Shirley Shearer and Elaine Gross, who co-sponsored a special citizenship court which was held in the New Hamburg community centre. This special court was presided over by Her Honour Judge Van Mossell, who has a deep love for Canada and her citizens. This event provided the opportunity for many local residents to reaffirm their commitment to Canada during Canada's 125th anniversary celebrations.

Judge Van Mossell was escorted by Sergeant Bowman from the Waterloo Regional Police; Harry Brightwell, the federal member of Parliament for Perth-Wellington-Waterloo, and myself. After the reaffirmation ceremony, the guests, which included a group of New Hamburg boy scouts, came forward and received a certificate of affirmation.

The evening was enhanced thanks to Alfred Kunz and the Nith Valley Singers and Jim Murray and the New Hamburg Band, who provided both entertainment and inspiration through song and music.

Once again, special thanks to Shirley Shearer and Elaine Gross for their commitment to their community and their country, Canada.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I am building a dossier on all the difficulties that are now occurring in this Legislative Assembly when it comes to providing the members with a free opportunity to be heard and for the public outside here being able to reach inside this institution to talk directly to the issues that really matter most.

A lot of our problems began on September 6, 1990, with the advent of this so-called New Democratic government that we have. What happened on June 8, 1992, was a resolution moved by Mr Cooke to shut down the debate in this House to give the people on the government side the final say on how much was said and how much was heard by this House with respect to difficulties proposed in their legislative agenda. They have shut us down, and most of us are very much perturbed by that. It is my hope that we all vote for a resolution I will be posing later that will open up our democratic institution.

While I have the floor, Mr Speaker, in that vein, it came as a very big concern to me that yesterday there was some concern expressed about those people who could and could not come into this chamber as members of the general public to view the proceedings here. I thank you now for the meeting that we had yesterday, but I will be proposing to the House leaders for the government side and the third party that we make rule changes that allow this chamber to be openly accessible to all our citizens.

POLICE OFFICERS

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I rise today to acknowledge in the House the great debt of gratitude that all citizens of Ontario owe to the men and women who serve and protect our communities and families as police officers.

By enforcing the law, the police perform the positive act of ensuring that our common social contract, as expressed in our laws protecting the rights of all citizens, and especially the vulnerable members of our society, is maintained and respected.

However, police officers can only discharge their responsibilities effectively in an atmosphere of the kind of solid trust and confidence which should exist between them and their government. Today's police demonstration on the front lawn of Queen's Park is an indication that the crucially important relationship has been severely damaged. This is not the time to lay blame for this turn of events, for what lies at stake here is the principle of public and community safety.

The Premier comes from a political culture that is expert in the use of confrontation to achieve social and political goals. Today I call on the Premier and his government to transcend that partisan tradition and begin rebuilding that relationship of public trust and confidence with the men and women police officers of Ontario. I invite the Premier to give a sympathetic hearing to all the concerns of the police without setting any preconditions. I ask the Premier, who I know has the capacity to understand complex social issues, to now extend that same capacity to the very real concerns of police officers, their families and the communities they serve.

JOHNNY TSAPARIS

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): I want to pay tribute to a Wellander who passed away and who will be sadly missed, Johnny Tsaparis, who owned and operated Johnny's Grill on east Main Street, right across from city hall, kitty-corner from Atlas Steel.

He came here decades ago as an immigrant from Macedonia, embraced this country, retaining every bit of that culture that was such a valuable heritage, and I tell you, helped make our community, the community of Welland, the great place that it is.

He was known literally by generations for his goodwill and his generosity. At Johnny's Grill, whether it was Johnny or his son George or any of their family serving, nobody was ever turned away for lack of money or lack of a credit card. Gosh, they never took credit cards because they were the sort of operation that ran up a tab.

Mr Tsaparis will surely be missed by his son, daughter-in-law and family. He was so typical of the great people who make this great country. It isn't constitutions that make countries; it's people like Johnny Tsaparis and other new Canadians who come here bringing with them a valuable culture and heritage and giving far more than they ever take back.

I want to pay tribute to what was a great man, Johnny Tsaparis. I want to express condolences to the family and I

want to tell his family on behalf of this Legislature that we're all going to miss that fine man.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the Premier. Premier, as you've just heard—with your name being chanted in fondness, I'm sure—there are thousands of police officers outside on the lawn of this Legislative Building who have come from all over the province of Ontario today to register their grave concerns on the way in which your government has approached policing issues in this province.

For more than three weeks now, the Metro police association has simply been asking for a meeting with you to discuss its grievances; a simple meeting, no preconditions, Premier. They just want an open and frank discussion.

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Government House Leader): Didn't you hear Art Lymer this morning?

Mr Mahoney: You'll get a chance to answer if you want to wait for the questions.

In refusing to meet with the Metro police association, you've simply allowed a common cold to turn into pneumonia. You've allowed the situation to become a standoff instead of acting in the best interests of the public. It has now spread throughout the province.

Premier, the public in Ontario want you, sir, to show some leadership. They want you to take the initiative and help resolve this increasingly serious situation. Premier, will you do that today?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I just want to get on the record a comment made by Chief Lunney, who's the chief of police in Peel. I think we have shown leadership in a very difficult circumstance. Listen to what Chief Lunney says:

"Our job is to enforce laws, all laws, not just some. Failure amounts to dereliction of duty. The public cannot be reassured. They pay our salaries. They dictate the vital issues in our future."

He then goes on to say:

"The irregularities to uniform are contrary to our rules. They are unprofessional in appearance and a threat to officer safety. But now we know that traffic law enforcement statistics are drastically down. These laws are made to ensure public safety. When they are not enforced, safety is at risk."

I just want to say to the honourable member, I would hope that, rather than to try to turn this into some kind of partisan issue or launch a daily assault on the Premier, what he would be doing is indicating clearly that there is an appropriate way for this kind of dialogue to take place.

I have offered every good effort. I will continue to do so and so will the Solicitor General, but I would say to the honourable member, I think it's time that we all recognize that this government is prepared to meet and to dialogue. However, we have to recognize that issues of public safety

and legitimate authority are involved with respect to what is taking place. That's what's at risk here.

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Mr Mahoney: We all know that the Premier's Solicitor General is his answer to Admiral Stockdale. We know that he's out of ammunition and he simply said that he doesn't have a green light to deal with this, so there's no point referring to his efforts. They want to talk to you. They have nothing to say to him any more.

I'm delighted that the Premier would choose to quote my chief from Peel region, Chief Lunney. Maybe you'd like to quote the entire article when he talks about the support that he has for the men and women of the Peel Regional Police force and their job action, when he says: "Their concerns are the same concerns that the chief has, the same frustrations that I've experienced...I'm pleased to tell you that I support them because I feel the same way."

That's Chief Lunney, and there's more, where he goes on to refer to your policies as twaddle, whatever that is. I think I know what it smells like, but I'm not sure what it is. He goes on in this article, Premier, to say that he supports the action of his men and women.

Let's go back a little and walk through history—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Mahoney: By way of supplementary to the Premier, in 1987, as Leader—

Interjections.

Mr Mahoney: Do you want this?

The Speaker: Order. I ask the member to please place his supplementary.

Mr Mahoney: As Leader of the Opposition in 1987, he expressed disbelief that workers at McDonnell Douglas would have to undertake a job action in order to draw attention to occupational health and safety concerns. I'm sure his answer would be, "That was then."

He will undoubtedly recall, during 1991 during a job action by provincial truckers protesting taxes and federal regulations, both the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Transportation met with those truckers to discuss their grievances.

The Speaker: Would the member please place his supplementary.

Mr Mahoney: I'm sure he would say, "That was then."

We are given to understand that the Premier himself was even prepared to meet with those people, and everybody in the province can remember the Premier's own actions at Temagami.

Premier, why won't your government give the police in this province, the men and women who are sworn to serve and protect, the same consideration that you would give other workers?

Hon Mr Rae: I want to quote Chief Lunney's statement of October 26, just because I think it's important to do so: "I have never agreed with the job action decided by the membership of PRPA." These are his words; this is

over his signature: "I have never agreed with the job action decided by the membership of PRPA. The irregularities to uniform are contrary to our rules. They are unprofessional in appearance and a threat to officer safety. But now we know that traffic law enforcement statistics are drastically down. These laws are made to ensure public safety. When they are not enforced, safety is at risk. A report will be tabulated, the board will be informed and provided recommendations to restore conformity."

Elsewhere in this letter, this is what he says: "This stalemate over the job action will not last. Having vented frustrations, understandable as they are, it's now time to get to the table and talk, for this dispute can still be resolved by talk." I fully agree with the words of Chief Lunney: "In a democratic state legitimate authority must win. An elected government will tolerate dissent to a reasonable degree and may be persuaded to alter its intentions, but it cannot tolerate outright defiance for long. Neither can the police services board, nor the chief."

Police in our society play an extraordinarily important role. If there's ever a sense in our society that a group of police officers in a union are indicating that there are some laws that will be enforced and other laws that won't be enforced, that there are some things that will be done and other things that won't be done, I think, and I hope the honourable member would recognize this, we have a precedent which is very different from any other situation which confronts us. We have a precedent which I don't think any government in the province could accept, whether it was a Conservative, Liberal or New Democratic Party government.

The Speaker: Final supplementary.

Mr Mahoney: I've said many times in this House that this Premier has principles and if we don't like them, he has others. It just simply depends on the issue of the day. When it's convenient, he will criticize something, and when it's convenient to suit his purpose, he'll pull quotes out and try to distort the facts.

The fact is, you can say what you want about Bob Lunney; Bob Lunney supports the men and women of Peel Regional Police and he supports the police of this province, and he sure as hell does not support you or your government or your actions.

Premier, you must understand that the Metro police officers have not undertaken this job action lightly. I don't think they're happy to be forced into this situation. They're professional men and women. They just want to get on with the job that they have to do. However, the sense among officers throughout this province is that your government dislikes and distrusts the police. By way of proof, I have a letter—

The Speaker: Does the member have a final supplementary?

Mr Mahoney: —from the Peel Regional Police Association, under the signature of David Griffin, the administrator—

The Speaker: No. Would the member place a supplementary.

Mr Mahoney: —in which he says, “The sense among our members is that your” —

The Speaker: No. Would the member take his seat, please. I ask the member to very briefly place a supplementary. We’ve utilized a great deal of time in the preambles and indeed in some of the response.

Mr Mahoney: Mr Speaker, I’m sure you understand this is a critically important issue and a certain amount of preamble is necessary.

Premier, do you not find it extraordinary that police officers feel so frustrated by your government and by you that they would have to undertake such a job action in order just to be heard? You’ve been quoted as saying that no one supports the police more strongly than you do. You can demonstrate that today. Premier, you cannot leave this matter wide open while you fly off to Japan. It is time to get off the sidelines. Why will you not take one small step, convene a meeting with the police and listen to their grievances?

Hon Mr Rae: In the clearest possible terms, I have offered to meet with them and that offer still stands.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: I want to say to the honourable member that the statements he has made and the views he has described as pertaining to me and as pertaining to this government are grossly unfair. I’m truly surprised—

Mr Mahoney: Are you hurt?

Hon Mr Rae: No, I’m not hurt. I am surprised. I’m not hurt. Hurting has nothing to do with it. I am surprised by someone who would inflame that kind of thinking.

Interjection.

The Speaker: The member for Mississauga West, come to order.

Hon Mr Rae: I would say, when he suggests, for example, that this government would for an instant force people to take this kind of action, I am truly surprised by this Liberal Party, truly surprised by a Liberal Party which brought in the reforms to the Police Services Act, truly surprised that it would be taking the kind of attitude and the kind of positions that it is. I think it really is very different from a standard I would expect, very different.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): The problem the Premier has in calling for the rule of law to prevail is that it rings very hollow when yesterday we clearly established in this House that the Premier himself is not abiding by the rule of law and is not abiding by the very guidelines he established for the conduct of ministers. We established that from his office came a letter interfering with the administration of justice at the Ontario Municipal Board. We established that the Premier’s own executive assistant was prevailing upon no less than the chair of the Ontario Municipal Board to expedite a hearing.

Incredibly, yesterday we heard the Premier’s defence in these terms. He said: “What’s the problem? It’s a great project.” I’m not surprised, because the Premier’s govern-

ment is the developer in this project. It is the respondent at the Ontario Municipal Board. But the Premier is wearing all the hats. The Premier as well appoints the chair and the members of the Ontario Municipal Board and, incredibly, feels that he is justified in trying to intervene in an extremely important decision about the timing of the hearing.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place a question, please.

Mr Sorbara: The Premier has had time to reflect on this matter and on the correspondence relating to this matter, and I simply ask him once again: Who is going to stand in judgement as to whether or not your letter to the Ontario Municipal Board, in a very important hearing, in a \$400-million project, is going to be adjudged contrary to your very conflict-of-interest guidelines? Who is that going to be—you or someone else?

1400

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I just want to say to the honourable member that, again, it’s similar to the comments made by his colleague the member for Mississauga West, and I would say to him that he is making allegations which are untrue. He is drawing conclusions which I think are quite unfair and quite unreasonable.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Not true.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): That’s not true. He’s got the letter.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: The fact of the matter is that Mr Romano wrote a letter, the letter was replied to by Mr Kruger very clearly setting out the criteria which the board would follow, and it’s extremely clear that there’s absolutely no interference with the substance of the application that’s before the board.

The government’s support for the overall application is crystal clear. This is an issue about jobs; it’s about clearing away a backlog. The idea that this government would somehow not have an interest in doing that in an overall way—it is very clear. The idea that we would interfere with the Ontario Municipal Board in this particular case with respect to the substance of the case is absolutely, completely and utterly false and most unfair of the honourable member.

Mr Sorbara: The Premier is digging himself into a deeper and deeper hole. I just asked a page to come here. I am going to send a letter over to the Premier.

Remember yesterday, Mr Speaker, the content of the letter sent from the Premier’s office asked for an expedited hearing for this very important matter. Now the Premier responds that John Kruger wrote back to the Premier’s office saying, “Well, I’m terribly sorry, but frankly we don’t have enough time to give you an expedited hearing.” That letter was on September 21.

Remember, sir, the Premier has an interest in this, and the Premier also appoints the board. The conflict-of-interest guidelines say you shall not interfere in any decision in any quasi-judicial tribunal, including the OMB.

What do we have after John Kruger's letter saying, "Sorry, I cannot accede to your request"? We have a letter to the applicant, the citizen who is appealing to the board, and the letter to Mr Rosen, signed by the case worker, reads as follows. Remember, this applicant is saying, "I can't handle an expedited hearing."

The Speaker: Would the member place the supplementary, please.

Mr Sorbara: "This letter serves to clarify the hearing schedules for both of the abovereferenced matters. The board, subsequent to issuing its procedural order of August 24, 1992, has received several requests to hear the appeals against bylaw 23-4391 in an expedited fashion. As a result of these requests, the hearing of the OMB file will now commence on November 30."

I show to the Premier a copy of today's *Globe and Mail*. Here is the story, right here where the Premier says, "Oh, well, nothing was wrong." Right beside it is the Ontario Municipal Board advertisement saying that there's going to be a hearing now—

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Sorbara: —on November 30, notwithstanding that the appellant himself has pleaded with the board to give him more time. I ask you once again, Premier, in light of the fact that the very case worker on this matter says, "I have received requests and I'm sorry, Mr Rosen, that in view of these requests we are going to expedite the hearing," what do you have to say to Mr Rosen, who is looking for a little bit of fairness?

Hon Mr Rae: What I have to say to the honourable member, because this is the question I'm referring to, is that the Ontario Municipal Board decides on the dates. They clearly indicated the criteria they've used. John Kruger has stated publicly that there's no special treatment, nothing at all of that kind, and the suggestion that there is, is an aspersion not only on me but an aspersion on the municipal board. The municipal board is completely independent. They make these decisions with respect to dates, and they've made the decisions with respect to dates.

The Speaker: The final, brief supplementary.

Mr Sorbara: The conflict-of-interest guidelines that the Premier imposed on his own cabinet are designed to avoid these very sorts of situations. The Premier yesterday said it was unfair to raise this matter in this House and accuse him of interfering with the administration of justice.

Remember what the letter said. The letter to the OMB said, and I am quoting: "I understand this application has met all of the board's priorities for an expedited request. As you can appreciate, all parties, including the provincial government with its interest in this development, are concerned about the effects any delay would have." It also says, "I understand that the applicant himself agrees with an expedited hearing."

Now let's hear about fairness, sir. These hearings before the board are designed to give those who are appealing to the board a fair opportunity to be heard.

The Speaker: And your supplementary?

Mr Sorbara: This is what Mr Rosen, the applicant, has to say. He says, sir—this is extremely important and I ask you to bear with me—in a letter to the board: "In closing, I understand that the Ontario Municipal Board has received a number of requests from different parties for an expedited hearing, including a letter from Bob Rae's office. It is not proper for the Office of the Premier to be directing to the OMB on how to proceed on matters under the OMB's exclusive jurisdiction. In addition, the letter from the Premier's office—"

The Speaker: And your supplementary?

Mr Sorbara: —"made representations on my behalf without my permission which misrepresented my position"—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. I remind the House that we have spent 20 minutes on the first two questions. Members quite properly ask to have an opportunity for many questions to be asked during the hour. A third of the time has gone by and we're still on the second question. Would the member please quickly get to his question.

Mr Sorbara: Yes, I will, Mr Speaker. I want to know what the Premier says to Mr Rosen, who is a private citizen appealing this matter, who says, "I cannot prepare my case appropriately if this matter is heard in November, and the Premier has misrepresented my position to the OMB and the Premier has violated his own guidelines which say you should not, as a minister, write, ever, to a judicial body to affect a decision of that body."

What does the Premier have to say to Mr Rosen, who says he can now not get a fair hearing because the matter has been expedited completely consistent with the Premier's interference with the board's decision-making power?

Hon Mr Rae: The board determines these matters entirely. The board will determine these matters entirely. The board will decide on the dates for a hearing. There are thousands of jobs at stake here. There are thousands and thousands of jobs at stake here. I would have thought that the honourable member would have had some concern—

Mr Sorbara: You can't write the board like that. They have decided at your request. You're the developer. You can't push the board around like that.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the Premier take his seat, please. I first ask the member for York Centre to come to order. He asked a question and I presume he would like to hear the response. I would ask the member to wait patiently and allow the person to respond to your question. Does the Premier have anything further to add?

New question, the leader of the third party.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Premier, there are thousands of police officers outside. On my desk are some 50,000 petitions which will be introduced into the Legislature later today. The police officers and the people who have signed these petitions, feel—and I understand why they feel this way—that when it comes to laws and regulations,

procedures concerning law enforcement, your government spends more time listening to special interests, more time listening to criminals, than it does listening to the men and women who risk their lives every day to protect Ontarians. That's how they feel, Mr Premier.

Premier, don't you think there's something wrong with this?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'm going to refer that question to the Solicitor General.

1410

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): In response to the leader of the third party, I want to assure him, as I have done on many occasions now—and let me look straight at him and tell him again this afternoon—that I, as Solicitor General of this province, and the officials of my ministry have had an ongoing and long-standing relationship with the police and the police representatives of this province, and that will continue.

I want to assure him as well, as this province moves towards community policing and continuing to serve the people we all support as elected representatives, that they too will be allowed to have a voice in their Ontario and in their home towns across this province, and that was done.

I totally reject and I find very difficult the kinds of assertions the member opposite makes that would suggest this government has anything other than undying respect for the policemen and policewomen in this force.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Harris: By way of supplementary to the Solicitor General, there's no point in lecturing me or pointing your finger at me. I'm telling you how they feel. They have told me this is how they feel. This is how they feel. You can't replace how they feel. Surely you would agree with me, if you believe they're wrong in feeling that way, that you think one thing, that they're wrong to feel that way, but if you would understand that they do feel that way and that you could resolve all this by simply meeting with them, wouldn't any reasonable person in a position of authority—Premier, Solicitor General, past, present or future—do that?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I realize that the Police Association of Ontario and its president inked a memo to all police forces in this province indicating what the results of the consultations with this government and this ministry and this minister were. I'd suggest, if you haven't read that to date, that you do it.

I also understand an ad was placed in the Toronto Sun and issued to every Ontario Provincial Police officer in this province, by the OPP executive, condemning, and not condoning, the actions of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association. I know that as well. What I know is that if we can stop this degree of emotion and rhetoric and those trying to feed into that kind of disdainful rhetoric, I along with the leadership of all these police organizations can come calmly to a table and resolve this conflict, I believe, to the wellbeing of every person in this province of ours.

Mr Harris: Let me say this to the Solicitor General: It is very easy for you and the Premier and for me to take this above an emotional level, but it's very difficult for police officers and families of police officers whose lives are on the line every day not to have a little bit of emotion creep into their concerns.

Mr Solicitor General, they feel you do not understand. I understand those feelings. Every action I've seen from you and your Premier reinforces that. Mr Solicitor General, last week your Premier said: "Do you think that former Premier Bill Davis would respond differently if this happened to him, or former Premier David Peterson, or former Premier John Robarts? Does anybody honestly believe that any Premier would respond in a different way?" I'm here to tell you that I honestly believe all three of those premiers would have responded in a different way.

Mr Solicitor General, I also honestly believe that all three of those premiers, while they may have had disagreements with the police from time to time, had the trust; they had the trust that they, their solicitors general and their governments had the best interests of the police officers in mind. You do not have that trust, Mr Solicitor General. Your Premier does not have that trust.

I appeal to you today and suggest to you that you can take one very small step towards regaining a little bit of that trust by offering to put aside this game of chicken, to put aside this "them or us," to put aside this "who's right and who's wrong" and meet with the police officers of Metropolitan Toronto. Will you do that?

Hon Mr Pilkey: We have done nothing other than to extend a hand so that we might meet and we might solve this particular problem.

I want to remind the member opposite—putting the rhetoric aside, let's review for just a moment some of the factual situations. That, as you know, is what police do: Deal with facts. It's a fact that we've supported the Ontario Provincial Police this year, in their request, by authorizing some 241 additional officers. Will you answer for me the last time it was when your government or that government responded to that kind of staffing request to that degree?

Let me give you another fact while you're thinking of your response to that one. Will you also remind me of when the last time was that you assisted them in their estimate problems and provided an additional \$45 million? Perhaps he could answer that one.

Perhaps you could respond on the last time a government built an entire new general headquarters and administration, as this government is doing in Orillia for the Ontario Provincial Police. And maybe you could remind me when it was last, as this government has done, you have brought forward additional training and the dollars to go along with it to enhance the effectiveness of our police men and women. Perhaps he could address those facts and get off the rhetoric and understand how this government in reality—

The Speaker: Will the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Pilkey: —is trying to support the men and women who wear the uniform in this province.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I guess that comment by the Solicitor General just proves the old adage: "You can't buy somebody's trust. You've got to earn it."

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): From a curbsider, that's some comment.

Mr Stockwell: That's awful. Mr Speaker, I'll continue; I'll ignore that comment.

The Speaker: To whom is your question directed?

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I'll go to the Premier, Mr Speaker. Mr Premier, I also have a copy of this letter that Mr Jeff Rosen sent to the Ontario Municipal Board. He says very clearly in this letter, on page 3, that in addition to the letter from the Premier's office, which he said you shouldn't have done, you made representations on his behalf without his permission, and those representations in fact misrepresented his position for an expedited hearing date.

My question to the Premier is this: Your staff wrote a letter to the OMB, a quasi-judicial board, clearly in conflict with section 22 of your conflict of interest guidelines, to the chairman of the board, asking that a date for an OMB hearing which was scheduled for the latter part of January be moved up to November 30.

In that letter your staff, who represent you, Mr Premier, misrepresented the position of those people who were fighting this development. You had the date moved up from January 25 to November 30. They say so themselves at the OMB. They've had representations to get this date moved up.

Premier, my question is very clear. How can Mr Rosen feel that he is going to get a fair hearing? And if he in fact does lose at the OMB, how are you going to explain to him that you had nothing to do with it?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): We're talking about a scheduling question, which the board has to determine and which the board normally determines. The board, in the ordinary course of events, determines it.

The board establishes its priorities. The board knows perfectly well, as a matter of public policy, the interest that we have, the interest that the Ministry of Transportation has, the interest that the Ministry of Housing has, the interest that other ministries have, that the GTA has and that the municipality has with respect to the city of York. The board is aware of that. The board makes the determination on the basis of the representations that are made to it by the individuals involved. Those are the facts.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Stockwell: You're suggesting this is a scheduling problem. I submit to you, Mr Premier, that you appointed Mr Dale Martin, a well-known NDP hack, to expedite through the OMB those projects that were of scheduling priority. If it were simply a scheduling problem, why would you have not simply called Mr Dale Martin? Because Mr Martin, as we all well know, is in charge of moving forward those kinds of important projects.

1420

The Premier's staff didn't call Mr Martin. The Premier's staff didn't just talk about a scheduling problem. The Premier's staff, which is the developer in this instance, talked about all levels of government supporting this project. He talked about not any unnecessary delays for fear of the detriment to this project.

My question to the Premier is not a scheduling question. Your letter puts you on record as supporting it. Your letter says that we need to move the date up. The date was moved up. Mr Rosen wasn't consulted and you didn't represent his views truthfully in the letter. My question stands: How is Mr Rosen going to believe that he got a fair and honest decision, when he's up against the province, the cabinet and the Premier?

Hon Bob Rae: I take it that what the member seems to be saying is that if Dale Martin had written the letter, that would be okay.

Mr Stockwell: Yes.

Hon Mr Rae: Oh, I see. Now I'm really at a loss.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: The issue is jobs, the issue is jobs, the issue is jobs. The issue is dealing with a problem with respect—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the Premier take his seat. Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: I just say again to the honourable member, the issue is jobs, very clearly. It's one in which a number of people involved in the project have indicated their concern. I would say to the honourable member that the government's interest in this matter has been perfectly clear from the very beginning. There's no question about that. There's no division about that. There's no conflict about that. It's very clear. No one's tried to hide it. We were all at the signing ceremony together. It's a project we all support. We want this project to go ahead.

What the OMB does with respect to the date, what the OMB does with respect to the substance, is entirely up to the OMB. But let there be no doubt: I think this is a good project and I hope it goes ahead, but it's up to the OMB to determine the manner in which that takes place. That's a matter of public record.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Premier, the issue is not jobs. All the developments that go before the OMB have a job component in them. That's not the question. The question isn't jobs, jobs, jobs; it's influence, influence, influence, and who's peddling that influence.

Mr Premier, you're saying to me that if you had talked to Mr Martin, everything would have been okay. Do you not know why you appointed Mr Martin? You appointed Mr Martin to handle issues and cases just like this. He was appointed to facilitate projects through the OMB apparently as a non-partisan, outside person. You appointed him, Mr Premier. If you had called him, he would have easily slid this one through. You didn't.

The question, Mr Premier, is this: How is Mr—

Interjections.

The Speaker: The member could proceed directly and place his supplementary.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. The member for Etobicoke West will place his final supplementary, please.

Mr Stockwell: I'll say it again, Mr Speaker, if it's going to raise their hackles again. Mr Martin was appointed to facilitate projects through the OMB. That's why he was appointed. He was going to make a hit list of the important projects—

The Speaker: And your supplementary, please.

Mr Stockwell: —and push them through, like the Palladium in Ottawa that they took a lot of bows about.

Mr Premier, Mr Rosen said in his letter, has said to the OMB, that he's not ready nor prepared to start dealing with this issue at the OMB at the latter part of November. Mr Rosen doesn't feel he'll be capable. Now, you have asked the OMB to move this date. You have told the OMB that you support this project. Your staff has come forward and said, "We've got to speed it up so we get it on track."

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Stockwell: Can you answer the question I asked the first time? How is Mr Rosen going to believe that he got a fair and honest hearing when the Premier of Ontario gets involved, asking to move a project up, telling the OMB that he's in favour; Mr Rosen, when he's not? How can he honestly think he's going to get a fair hearing?

Hon Mr Rae: Because the simple question of scheduling is a matter that's going to be decided by the OMB. That issue is going to be settled by the OMB, and it will be settled on the OMB's assessment of the interests of all the parties and of the inconvenience to the parties.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: That's the job of a tribunal to make that assessment. It's not my job to make that assessment; it's the job of the tribunal.

With respect to the substance of the application—

Interjections.

The Speaker : Could the Premier take his seat, please. No, would the member for Renfrew North be seated for a moment. New question, the member for Renfrew North.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question is also for the Premier, and it builds upon the question asked by my colleague the member for Mississauga West earlier this afternoon in question period.

It's quite clear, Mr Premier, with thousands of police officers on the lawns of this Legislative Building this afternoon, that there clearly exists a very real problem and a very real tension between the police community in this province and your government.

As the member for Mississauga West so eloquently observed, the police men and women of this province themselves are saying that they believe that your government neither likes nor trusts the police. That is what the police community is telling this Legislature today, and that's what they've been observing over the past number of months.

I ask the Premier this: Having regard to the fact that it's only four months ago that his own parliamentary assistant, the honourable member for St Andrew-St Patrick, made comments in Hamilton that were viewed by many of us, and certainly most in the police community, as absolutely inflammatory—and I ask the Premier to remember what Ms Akande said in Hamilton in June of this year—having regard to what his own parliamentary assistant has said, can he really be surprised that the thousands of police men and women who've gathered on the lawns of this parliamentary place today are concerned about the lack of trust and respect that seems evident from the Ontario government today?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I'll refer that question to the Solicitor General.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Point of order?

REFERRAL OF QUESTION

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, he cannot refer a question about one of his former parliamentary assistants. It belongs to his ministry; he must answer.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member will know that in the rules, a question directed to a minister—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member will know that under the standing orders, when a question is directed to a minister, if the minister believes the question should properly be redirected, the minister has the opportunity to do that.

Mr Elston: He's running away, Mr Speaker. He's trying to—

The Speaker: I'm sorry to disappoint the member for Bruce, but there is not anything out of order. The Solicitor General.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): The Ministry of the Solicitor General has—

The Speaker: Point of order, the leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): On the same point of order, are you telling us that it would be acceptable for a question about transportation to be directed to the Minister of Health? I would suggest you would know right away that that is unacceptable and out of order. We have a question here that has nothing to do with the Solicitor General. I wonder why, now that you understand that—

1430

Interjections.

The Speaker: Yes, I appreciate there was a question with respect to policing, and the Premier decided to direct it to the Solicitor General. In my view, there is nothing out

of order about that. The Solicitor General has authority for the police forces in the province of Ontario.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Hon Mr Pilkey: I have no comment with respect to the question of a member by one of the elected representatives here, because, quite frankly, the efforts we are making on behalf of policing in the Ministry of the Solicitor General are well beyond any single remark.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Oriole.

Hon Mr Pilkey: They reach very deeply and rather directly into every municipal and provincial police force we have an association with.

I have indicated to the member opposite in my earlier remarks the very positive, the very direct, the very kind of partnership initiatives we have undertaken which will add to the structural framework of policing in this province, and I know, as sure as I am standing here, we will see the benefits of that training, we will see the benefit of those procedures, and every police officer and every citizen in this province in the future will be enhanced and improved. We will have a growing and more positive relationship as a result of these programs, and that includes the race relations programs we are entering into with the police of this province.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I think all thoughtful members know that the relationship between any government in a democratic society and its police force is one of the most complex, sensitive and difficult one can find in the community.

It is a question to the government, and it was a question because it's got to be a question to the leader of the government: Is it any wonder that in Ontario, in 1992, we have come to this very regrettable and worrisome situation where we have, for the first time that I can recall, thousands of policemen and women coming to this parliamentary place telling us they believe there is a serious, dangerous want to trust and respect on behalf of the government with respect to the police in the community? Is it any wonder that we've got this situation, when but weeks ago the parliamentary assistant to Premier Rae said in Hamilton, "No one seems to have a problem in identifying us," namely the black community, "when they want to shoot us," a comment that infuriated and inflamed the community at large and the police community specifically.

I ask the Premier, as leader of the government, in light of these kinds of comments and other actions by the leadership within the New Democratic Party and government of Ontario, what measures is he going to take, as leader of the government and leader of the province, to repair and repair quickly this most important and this most strained of relationships?

Hon Mr Pilkey: There are any number of people inside these chambers and outside these chambers who make remarks from time to time. I don't attempt to countenance them or anything of that nature.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Pilkey: But what I am here to tell you, Mr Speaker, and through you the citizens we represent, is that we are not about single remarks or comments from any and all quarters. What we're about, in this multicultural and multiracial society here in Ontario, which, as everyone knows factually, is a growing situation where we'll have, I believe, some 45% of our fellow citizens by the year 2000—we will all be here together as one in this multicultural, multiracial society.

We have enacted a variety of programs through the ministry, in cooperation with our police departments, to enhance race relations, to give that kind of training, to have interactive videos so that all of us can move towards community policing, an all-embracing community, a community of one, and we can live and we can police in that kind of harmonious situation. We shouldn't be led off and distracted from that by trying to peg single comments in the way of that very positive initiative.

The Speaker: New question.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I want to raise a point of order which flows out of the answer the Premier gave to a previous question. It's under standing order 23, where it says, "In debate, a member shall be called to order by the Speaker if he or she refers to any matter that is the subject of a proceeding that is before any quasi-judicial body constituted by the House or by or under the authority of an act of the Legislature."

The Premier commented very clearly, and I think Hansard would show it, on the merits of the case before the Ontario Municipal Board by saying that it is a very good project and it should go forward. I think if you review Hansard, the record will show that.

Mr Speaker, I'm bringing this to your attention as a matter that is totally inappropriate for a member, let alone the Premier of the province, to be commenting on. In addition, contrary to his own conflict-of-interest guidelines, he is debating in a manner that is totally contrary to the rules. I would ask you, Mr Speaker, to consider the rationale for this particular rule. Why would this rule be there, and how would it apply to the comments that the Premier made in response?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Ottawa West, I appreciate the matter which he's drawn to my attention, and while I'm not sure whether he has a point of order or not, I'd be very pleased to take a look at the matters to which he refers.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is to the Premier and is related to the demonstration that occurred on the lawns of Queen's Park today. I think it's specifically related to him and we're hoping that he will respond, because certainly policemen and police-women across this province are hoping for a response from the leader of the government.

The Premier may recall some time ago a shooting in Metropolitan Toronto. It involved Constable Robert Rice

chasing a suspected drug dealer through back alleys, being confronted by this individual with a knife, and the shooting occurred.

Mr Rae, the Premier, arranged a meeting over a weekend, I believe, with representatives from the Black Action Defence Committee and others.

Interjection: Sunday afternoon.

Mr Runciman: To quickly respond, I'm advised it was on a Sunday. We have the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association, thousands of police officers right across this province asking for the same opportunity the Premier afforded a special interest group on a weekend, on a Sunday, and he's not prepared to do that for men and women who are out there putting their lives on the line for us on a daily basis.

I ask the Premier to stand up here in the House today and tell us why he continues to refuse to sit down with these people, hear their concerns, hear from the people who are out there facing those challenges every day.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'm going to refer that again to the Solicitor General.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I very much appreciate the question from the member for Leeds-Grenville.

Interjections.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Come on, Bob Rae, answer the question. Just answer one question.

Hon Mr Rae: Do you really want to know the answer to that?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Pilkey: He says that the Premier of this province was quick to convene a meeting—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I would ask all members to respect the traditions of this chamber and allow the minister the opportunity to be heard.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): We don't want to hear from him.

Interjections.

1440

The Speaker: Order. Oral questions; the member for Halton North.

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): My question is for the Minister of the Environment.

The Speaker: Point of order, the member for Bruce.

ATTENDANCE OF PREMIER

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: There has been a remarkable cutback in the manner in which people are able to speak in this assembly. It has caused me to rise on several points—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Elston: It has caused me to stand on more than one occasion in this chamber, Mr Speaker, to complain to

you that we are not able to put our questions to people at a time when we think it is necessary to question the merit of public issues.

The Premier of this province has been absent on several occasions for good reasons. He has already planned to be out of this place for a period of some 16 days during regular sitting time of this House. He has chosen to schedule meetings and filmings of his blather for publication in the public airwaves during the time when he should be in this place one hour of the day required under our routine proceedings. He has really conspired to prevent us asking the questions of him.

Mr Speaker, it is for me to point out to you that if he plans not to attend, if he plans as well to frustrate us, it is your duty as the Speaker to stand in and find a way of making sure that our rights as the minority in this Parliament can be appreciated, and in fact that we will have a chance to put the questions which we have for him, and in that way address issues of immediate and important public interest.

The Speaker: I understand—

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I wish to announce to you that we will not be in this place today because of the Premier's unwillingness to be with us here.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. I appreciate—

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Point of order.

The Speaker: Is this on the same point of order?

Mr Cousens: Yes, it is.

The Speaker: Okay. I've heard the point of order—I understand that it's a fairly simple one to deal with. While I appreciate fully the member's interest and the concern which he has expressed, the member will know that there is nothing in the standing orders to compel the attendance of any member of the House.

Mr Elston: You are supposed to protect members of the minority.

The Speaker: Your Speaker is powerless to compel the attendance of anyone. If the rules were changed, of course, then it would be up to the Speaker to try to enforce those rules.

It is time for an oral question. The member for Halton North.

Mr Cousens: Mr Speaker, on a point of order.

The Speaker: A new point of order? The member for Markham.

Mr Cousens: Referring to the question that was asked by the member for Leeds-Grenville to the Premier, the Premier has abused the privilege of Premier in not coming forward and giving a straight answer to the member for Leeds-Grenville. The member has posed a question that pertained particularly to the Premier's ability to meet with the police and the fact that the Premier had met with another group on a Sunday afternoon. He has laid out that question. It did not—

The Speaker: Would the member for Markham please take his seat. I understand his point of order, but I

must tell him that there is not a point of order. The question was asked. It was within the prerogative of the Premier to redirect, which he did, and there's nothing out of order about that.

I will recognize the member for Halton North with his question.

Mr Cousens: Mr Speaker, on a point of personal privilege.

The Speaker: A matter of privilege?

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): Point of order over here, Mr Speaker.

Mr Cousens: Mr Speaker, taking this as an issue, if in fact this is on—

The Speaker: The member for Markham, just take your seat for a moment, please.

There seems to be a tiny bit of confusion. Whether we are inside question period or not, a point of order takes precedence. I have a responsibility to recognize it. I have told the honourable member for Halton North that he will have his question. I see the clock. The member for Markham.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Mr Speaker, I have a question of procedure at this point in time. Would it not be appropriate for us to have the supplementary question before it goes to the government? That was our intent.

The Speaker: No. The person—
Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The person who posed the question is not in the chamber for the supplementary.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I have a point of order. We have a supplementary.

The Speaker: No. Would the member for Etobicoke West please come to order and take his seat. I recognize the member for Markham.

Mr Cousens: Mr Speaker, on a point of personal privilege dealing with the same issue that I referred to as a point of order, and if incorrectly calling it a point of order, the privilege of a member of the opposition has been abused by virtue of the fact that the Premier has failed to answer a question directed to him, that pertained to him, and that totally touches on his responsibility as Premier. It did not refer in any way to the activities or potential work of the Solicitor General. So by virtue of the fact that the member for Leeds-Grenville asked the Premier a question about him, the Premier incorrectly referred that to another minister.

I ask you, Mr Speaker, in the interests of the House and in fairness to all, and for the privileges of the member for Leeds-Grenville, that you look at the rules of this House in light of the fact that it was directly a question to the Premier and was not one that could easily, logically or rationally be referred to any other person.

The Speaker: I understand the member's point, and while the ruling I made stands, I'm more than happy to take a look at Hansard and to take a look at the standing rules to assure myself that a correct decision was made.

I must say to the member that the subject material of the question allowed the Premier, or indeed any other minister, to redirect the question. In fact, that's what he did, and I did not see anything out of order about that.

1450

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Point of order, the member for St Catharines.

Mr Bradley: Mr Speaker, your responsibility in the House, as you know, is to maintain order and decorum in the House. It is very difficult to ensure that there is going to be decorum in the House when the Premier of the province is never in the House. In the interests of decorum in the House, in the interests of preserving some kind of sanity in this building, it's going to be essential for the government—I understand not necessarily for you—to produce the Premier.

He has been here in the House only the second time in the whole session, to my recollection. He announces he's going to head for Asia for three weeks. The Premier is never accountable and that's why we have lack of order in the House.

The Speaker: I understand the point which the member for St Catharines makes and I trust the member will realize that this is far beyond my control. It is a matter perhaps of discussion for the three House leaders at some point, but it is not a matter for the House and it is not a matter for your Speaker.

The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, the supplementary that was supposed to be placed by this party was not by the member for Leeds-Grenville; the supplementary was being placed by the member for Burlington South. Mr Speaker, that supplementary was properly before the House and I ask you to recognize—

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): He vacated his seat.

Mr Stockwell: The member for Burlington South did not leave the chamber, although that should have nothing to do with the point of order. The member for Burlington South is prepared to put the supplementary at this point, in due process and proper order.

The Speaker: I understand full well the point of order of the member for Etobicoke West. What I must remind the member is that I stood and waited for order to be restored. The moment when order was restored, I looked and there was not a person standing. Many of the members had left the chamber. I then recognized, in rotation, by our standing orders, the government side. Indeed, the member for Halton North had stood. Therefore, I recognized him, and I now recognize him for his question.

LANDFILL

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): My question is to the Minister of the Environment. The minister well knows my opposition and my constituents' opposition to the

proposed landfill site by Reclamations Systems Inc and the Acton quarry.

The minister is well aware that when RSI first announced the proposal in 1987, residents formed a group known as Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources. This group, along with many others, including the town of Halton Hills and the region of Halton, has been very active in its opposition, along with myself, to the proposed landfill site. They believe it to be unsuitable and inappropriate in its location within the Niagara Escarpment area.

The minister is aware that a joint board, established under the Consolidated Hearings Act, sat this last June to hear and consider the necessary approvals. On September 16, the board released its decision. It determined that it did not have the jurisdiction to consider the matter set out and the hearing was terminated. For the sake of my constituents and myself, does the minister support the board's decision?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I know how much work this member has put into his opposition to this particular hearing and I'm glad to be able to tell him that the board, as he knows, decided not to continue hearing the case because it felt that the matters under discussion had not progressed far enough and had not been brought far enough along by RSI. In fact, what the board said was that, in other words, it was the opinion of the board that RSI, the proponent, had not done enough work.

My ministry is satisfied that the result of the board's decision with respect to the RSI proposal is reasonable. We are also satisfied that this ruling will not jeopardize the continuation of other hearings that are already in process.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for questions has expired.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order, the member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: Mr Speaker, I would like to serve notice that with regard to the question I asked at the beginning of question period to the Premier, I'm totally dissatisfied with his answer and will be filing the papers to require the late show, which I believe will have to be held tomorrow night after the House.

The Speaker: I appreciate the fact that the member realizes he needs to file a paper within the necessary time frame and, indeed, our late show is on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It is now time for petitions. The member for London North.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Mr Speaker, according to standing order 34(a), with regard to the Speaker's ruling relating to oral questions that are not debatable or subject to appeal, it does say, "However, a member who is not satisfied with the response," and it goes on to say, "or who has been told that his or her question is not urgent or of public importance, may give

notice orally at the end of the oral question period that he or she intends to raise the subject matter of the question on the adjournment of the House and must give written notice to the Speaker not later than 4 pm the same day and file reasons for dissatisfaction with the Clerk at the table before 5 pm."

Mr Speaker, I will be giving notice that I'm dissatisfied with the ruling. I felt that the supplementary ought to be ours and that that ought to have been the order that you should have received the questions in at that point in time. We will indeed be making that statement in writing to you, Mr Speaker, before 5 o'clock.

The Speaker: Point of order?

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): Mr Speaker, you will know that both you and I have served in this chamber for a good period of time. Over that period of time, a certain tradition and certain procedures have in fact been built up as to when the Speaker calls grave disorder and when the Speaker adjourns the House.

Having watched you adhere to those particular traditions over the last couple of years and having sat here and having seen you announce to the House that you concluded that there was in fact grave disorder on certain occasions, adjourn the House for 10 or 15 minutes and had the House then reconvene, I wanted to ask you, because I could not understand why today, after approximately three minutes of grave disorder, the House was not adjourned, as you would have customarily done. It would have given everyone a chance to calm down, probably given the Premier a chance to return, if his schedule would have allowed it, and would have allowed—

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): More questions.

Mr Mancini: More questions. It would have allowed the retention, from what I could see, of approximately six to seven minutes of question period, which would have allowed members of the opposition to continue questioning the government on the important issues of the day.

I'd like you to explain to me, sir: What was the difference today between the disorder we had and all the other occasions when you and the previous Speakers have in fact announced there was grave disorder and adjourned the House?

The Speaker: To the member for Essex South, I'm not sure it's a healthy exercise to be comparing disorders one to another. What I can tell the member is that at any given moment in time your Speaker attempts to assess the situation and to handle it as appropriately as the situation prescribes.

I can say to members that I suppose the best remedy would be to maintain order within the chamber, and that rests with the House itself. I can only continue to ask members—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): That's exactly what the New Democrats want—that we'd be sort of silent and whimpering like children. They can abuse us all they want and you won't step in.

The Speaker: I would ask all members to respect the chamber and to try to exercise restraint, even when we have contentious issues on the floor of the House. Any

more than that I don't believe any Speaker is capable of doing, and perhaps in future days we will have a better chamber.

It is time for petitions.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Point of privilege.

The Speaker: The member for Mississauga South.

Mrs Marland: My privilege concerns what has taken place in this House this afternoon. Mr Speaker, I think I'm one of the first to recognize the difficulty of your job. I also recognize the difficulty of the Premier's job, and I recognize the responsibility all of us have in this Legislature to perform our individual jobs.

What we have seen this afternoon is a matter of opinion depending on which side of the House we sit on, and I respect that, but the fact is that I would implore you to review the Hansard and, if possible, the electronic Hansard of what took place this afternoon. I feel that if we're going to have a fragile—

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Point of privilege.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): But she's a very nice lady and I wouldn't interrupt her if I were you.

Hon Ms Gigantes: Privileges are intact.

Mrs Marland: You see, I can't even speak about a point of privilege without the Minister of Housing rattling away from her seat. I feel that I have a right to stand on a point of privilege without being interrupted by the Minister of Housing.

1500

I would suggest that all of us take a very close look at what happened this afternoon and all of us, respecting each other and respecting our individual responsibilities, try to assess how we can avoid this kind of chaos in this House again. As a member, I believe my privileges were affected this afternoon by what took place here. I think that if some good judgement would be considered by all members, including the people who apparently inflamed the situation, albeit on both sides—

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): Your solution is walking out of here. That's her solution. Is that yours?

Interjection: You can answer questions.

The Speaker: Order.

Mrs Marland: Excuse me, perhaps we could avoid a recurrence of what took place this afternoon.

Hon Mr Wildman: On the point of privilege, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: In a moment I'll recognize the member for Algoma.

May I say to the member for Mississauga South that I truly appreciate her comments. I know all members try to conduct themselves in an honourable way. I realize that. Sometimes the emotional issue of the time intrudes upon that and causes us disorder. Perhaps on other occasions we will have a more orderly chamber. I recognize the member for Algoma.

Mr Wildman: Thank you. On the point of privilege, Mr Speaker, I want to say that I agree completely with my friend the member for Mississauga South. I believe that the privileges of all members of the House were abused and obstructed today. I think all of us should reflect on the fact that members, whatever side they were on, decided, through hammering their desks, to make it impossible for the question period to proceed, then subsequently vacated their seats and then subsequently requested that they be given the right to place a supplementary question, even though the individual who wished to place that question was not in his seat at the time he should have been to place the question.

Mr Speaker, our privileges have indeed been abused, and abused in a most unsatisfactory and terrible situation. I agree with the member for Mississauga South. We should ensure that this kind of behaviour does not recur.

The Speaker: I'm not sure if we actually reached agreement on that, but I appreciate the contribution of the member for Algoma.

It's time for petitions.

PETITIONS

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I have a petition. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rules changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I have affixed my signature to that petition.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of the members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which has in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

This is part of some 50,000 signatures that have been gathered from all across the province of Ontario, some of them from my riding of Nipissing, and I too have signed this petition.

STABLE FUNDING

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I have a number of petitions signed by people from Bruce county, from Grey county, from Wingham and from Renfrew. What the petition is saying is that two thirds of the farmers in Ontario do not belong to any of the farm organizations and they are asking that:

"The undersigned strongly object to the proposal that is being put forward to the Minister of Agriculture and Food empowering stable funding in the province of Ontario," and I affix my signature to it.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads as follows:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I've signed my name.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province;

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I'm proud to add my name to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I have a petition here signed by people in Amherstburg, La Salle, Harrow and Charing Cross, Blenheim and several areas in Essex county which reads:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposed amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I attach my signature.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the

same concern about the lives of men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

It has my signature of support and is part of approximately 50,000 petitions today.

1510

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have a second petition, briefly, if I may, Mr Speaker. It is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Her Majesty the Queen, at her coronation in 1953, took a personal oath to the people of Canada, and Canadians have always reciprocated with oaths of allegiance and service to the person of the sovereign;

"Whereas it is our right and duty to take oaths of allegiance and service in such form;

"Whereas Ontario regulation 144/91 made under the Police Services Act, 1990, denies Ontarians this right,

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, loyal to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor in Council be requested to revoke Ontario regulation 144/91 and restore the traditional oath of service to Her Majesty for police personnel in Ontario."

That has my signature of support along with approximately 5,000 signatures and it is submitted to Her Majesty's loyal government in Ontario. God save the Queen.

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads:

"Whereas Her Majesty the Queen, at her coronation in 1953, took a personal oath to the people of Canada, and Canadians have always reciprocated with oaths of allegiance and service to the person of the sovereign;

"Whereas it is our right and duty to take oaths of allegiance and service in such form;

"Whereas Ontario regulation 144/91 made under the Police Services Act, 1990, denies Ontarians this right,

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, loyal to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor in Council be requested to revoke Ontario regulation 144/91 and restore the traditional oath of service to Her Majesty for police personnel in Ontario."

That's signed by G. Munroe of 25 Wood Street, J. Wood of Harbour Square, G. Anand of Yonge Street and a whole lot of other people, and by myself with enthusiasm.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from concerned residents of my riding which says:

"Whereas there has been a marked increase in crime, particularly violent crimes and crimes against women and children; and

"Whereas there has not been adequate support for law enforcement agencies on the streets and in the courts; and

"Whereas the morale of police forces in Ontario has been undermined,

"We, the undersigned, respectfully petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to join with the citizens of Ontario in demonstrating significant and strong support of our law enforcement agencies."

I have signed that as well, Mr Speaker.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday business.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families.

"The proposed amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act, Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I have affixed my signature to this, Mr Speaker.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell): To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rules changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I have affixed my signature.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of the members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of the Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite the representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I have signed this petition.

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of the members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of the Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite the representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past has made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

This is signed by many constituents and citizens across this province. I affix my signature.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I have a petition which, without editorializing, is quite apropos on a day when the Premier walks out on us. It's to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rules changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I affix my signature.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Sorry to disappoint the member for Wellington and others, but the time allocated for the presentation of petitions has expired.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr White from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr44, An Act to revive Pinecrest Community Association

Bill Pr52, An Act to revive Grand River Home Improvements Building Products, Supplies & Services Ltd

Bill Pr59, An Act to revive Peterborough Social Planning Council

Bill Pr62, An Act to revive Fefferlaw Developments Limited

Bill Pr67, An Act to revive Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association of Toronto (Incorporated)

Bill Pr70, An Act respecting Nipissing University

Your committee recommends that Bill Pr51, An Act respecting the City of York, not be reported, it having been withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

Your committee further recommends that the fees, and the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr59, An Act to revive Peterborough Social Planning Council.

Your committee further recommends that the fees, and the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr70, An Act respecting Nipissing University.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed? Agreed.

1520

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's 16th report.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Mr Runciman presents the committee's 16th report. Does the member wish to make a brief statement?

Pursuant to standing order 106(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

PUBLIC BILLS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): On a point of order, the member for Bruce.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I wish to rise today under the auspices of standing orders 67 and 69 to give you, through you to the Clerk, notice orally of our intention to file an amendment on the motion for third reading of Bill 40 when we get that far.

Whereas the standing orders are quite silent as to when the material may be filed and in what form, it says only that I cannot file it later than a certain date, and it does not say that I cannot do it orally. In fact, I intend to give you full oral notice today, and through you to the Clerk, of all of the aspects of this particular amendment.

I will begin now to read this amendment, and I wish you to give notice to the Clerk that in fact we will be filing this at an appropriate time. I ask you to listen now and receive notice, as is required by the standing orders of you and of the table.

I will move that the motion for third reading of Bill 40 be amended to add after the words now:

"That Bill 40, the Labour Relations and Employment Standards Law Amendment Act, 1992, be returned to the standing committee on resources development because the committee did not debate the essence of amendments, as evidenced by the following script used by the committee Chair, which reads as follows:

"Shall section 1 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 2 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 3 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 4 of the bill carry?

"Shall section 5 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall section 6 of the bill carry?

"Shall the deferred PC amendment to section 7(2)(4) carry?

"Shall section 7 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall section 8 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall section 9 of the bill carry?

"Shall the Liberal amendment to section 10 of the bill, section 9.2 of the act, carry?

"Shall section 10 of the bill, as amended, carry?

"Shall the government amendment to section 11 of the bill, subsection 10(3) of the act, carry?

"Shall section 11 of the bill, 'as amended,' if applicable, carry?

"The Liberal motion to strike out section 12 of the bill is not in order.

"The PC motion to strike out section 12 of the bill is not in order.

"Shall the PC amendment to section 12 of the bill, subsection 11.1(1.1) of the act, carry?

"Shall the PC amendment to section 12 of the bill, subsections 11.1(2) to (7) of the act, carry?

"Shall the government amendment to section 12 of the bill"—

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce: I don't ever like interrupting the member for Bruce when he's in full flight, but if it will be of help to him, all he needs to do is

to present his material in writing to the table at his earliest possible convenience and therefore it can be on the order paper. That's our procedure and I'm sure that the member can—

Mr Elston: No. It can be but it does not have to be, Mr Speaker. There is nothing that prevents me from giving oral notice of this under our standing orders. In fact, I wish to give you oral notice of this particular piece of information.

The Speaker: I'm reminded by the table that our practice in this regard is quite strict.

Mr Elston: It is not. Where?

The Speaker: I've asked the member to please comply—

Mr Elston: Show me the written precedents. I've looked and there are none.

The Speaker: It surely is not a great inconvenience. There's nothing out of order about him presenting the material which he wishes to have on the order paper in writing to the table so that it can be put on the notice paper, rather than occupying the time of the House with this matter at this point in our schedule, so that we can proceed.

Mr Elston: I would like to refer you, on the point of order, to sections 67 and 69, which say I only am required to give notice. It does not say it is written notice. It does not say it is oral notice. I have chosen an option, which is the oral notification of the table, through this place. It is my right as a member of this particular place to put a matter orally on the table for consideration. I cannot find any precedent that prevents me from giving oral notice of this particular motion. I ask that you allow—

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, I realize that he doesn't want to be seen as debating a ruling by the Speaker. I would remind the member that—without my being reminded by the table, I certainly recall that notices are to be written. They are to be written so that they then can be printed in the order paper.

While I appreciate his kindness in attempting to assist the business of the House by notifying us orally, that really isn't necessary. What would be helpful is, if he has a document all ready, that he indeed simply file it with the table. That will help us expedite our public business, and what he wishes to accomplish will have been accomplished; ie, the matter to which he refers will appear on the order paper, which I take it is what he wants to have happen at some point in time. The sooner he can file that with the table, the better.

Mr Elston: On a point of personal privilege, Mr Speaker: You have been, with the great advice of numbers of authorities, holding us relatively to the word and the letter of the standing orders recently. I appreciate that it is your job to do that. What I am doing now is not precluded by these particular standing orders. I would like to just read for a moment exactly what it says under standing order 67, in the public bills section of our standing orders:

"No notice is required for motions for second or third reading of bills or for hoist motions, such motions being

ancillary; but a motion for a reasoned amendment to a motion for second or third reading does require notice."

It does not state that it has to be written. It does not state that it has to be orally done. That, in my view, allows the option to go to the member whose privilege it is to alert the table and to alert this assembly to the business that is being proposed for them some time in the future.

There have been occasions when notice has been given orally. In fact, we changed the new rules really to give oral notice with respect to the motions for the time allocation. We now require us not to be notified as House leaders any more by the Orders and Notices papers, but by the intervention of some kind of message from the House leader, followed by a motion.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): There is no provision for oral notification on the time allocation.

Mr Elston: Basically, you told us that you were going to inform us when you were going to do it and then it would follow. But, Mr Speaker, there is nothing to preclude me, on the standing orders—and I ask you to read this. I ask you to read it and I ask you to defer any business as a result until—

The Speaker: I understand the member for Bruce's point. Indeed, I'm familiar with the standing order. He's right, as he reads it, that it doesn't preclude him from presenting it orally. But I must remind the member that it is our practice to provide written notification to the table. It is that practice upon which predecessors of mine have relied and, of course, naturally I rely as well.

Mr Elston: Where is the ruling on this?

The Speaker: I'm more than pleased to discuss this at some length with the member at another time. I'm pleased to review the matter, as I always am. But I must say to the member that the practice of our assembly is very clear, and that's the practice I don't care to break at this particular point in time.

Hon Mr Cooke: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As I've heard it now, you've given a ruling three times on this. You have a choice here. Are we going to debate this all afternoon or are we going to get on with orders of the day?

The Speaker: We are not debating the Speaker's ruling. It is time for orders of the day.

1530

Mr Elston: Can I have a point of privilege, Mr Speaker?

The Speaker: If this is something a little different than what we've—

Mr Elston: It is something a little different. Mr Speaker, you have told me, on a point of privilege, that I cannot do what is not prevented by the standing orders. I would respectfully ask you, sir, to file with me, or at least to file in this House, your written reasons and tell me why it is and from whence all of this learned information comes so that when we misunderstand the rules again about giving notice and otherwise, we will be able to refer to the written material. Can you undertake to provide us with your written research?

The Speaker: In essence, what the member for Bruce is asking for is a ruling. Of course, I'm always pleased to assist members in any way to appreciate the rules, not just our standing orders but our practice. So I'd be pleased to accommodate the member.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI A TRAIT AUX RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL ET À L'EMPLOI

Consideration of Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui a trait à la négociation collective et à l'emploi.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Chair, could the minister bring his staff on the floor?

The First Deputy Chair (Mr Dennis Drainville): Certainly. Please direct the staff.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): Mr Chair, please, as the ministerial staff is coming, I understand that yesterday, the last day that this bill was debated, there was an agreement that the time would be evenly split, to be used as each caucus so wished. I recognize the motion that we are operating under and ask if it is most appropriate for that procedure that commenced last Thursday to continue on today, so that each caucus would have 45 minutes to deal with the sections in the way and manner it feels is most appropriate.

The First Deputy Chair: Is it agreed on all sides of the House that we split the time evenly three ways? Is there agreement? Agreed. We will have a free-ranging discussion, then, continuing on. Who would like to lead off the debate?

Mr Offer: The first comment that I wish to make in the time allocated deals with subsections 4(2) and (4) of the bill. I want to be very brief in this area, not because it isn't important but because of the very limited time that we have to deal with the matter.

As we all recognize, there is currently, under the Ontario Labour Relations Act, an exclusion to employees in agricultural and horticultural operations. Under Bill 40 that exclusion, which has operated in this province and has worked in this province for years, has been changed. It is now under Bill 40 that our agricultural and horticultural workers may find themselves within the purview of the Ontario Labour Relations Act, through regulation, at the whim of the Minister of Labour. This would, without question, curtail the rights of those involved in agricultural and horticultural operations from dealing with the issues which will affect them.

In this chamber and in committee, we have put forward an amendment which would repeal those provisions of Bill 40 and reinstate the status quo. In other words, we believe that the exclusion which has operated in the past and has worked successfully in the past in the area of agriculture and horticulture should continue, and if there are to be any

changes in those areas by way of separate legislation, then it should not have any impact on this bill.

I have received a great many concerns from those involved in the agricultural sectors of our communities throughout the province. They are concerned that they may find themselves one day within the ambit of the Ontario Labour Relations Act for the first time in this province and that it will be done by regulation, without their being given the opportunity for input, without being given the opportunity of debate in this Legislature and without being given the opportunity for public consultation throughout the committee process. They are concerned; we are concerned.

Our amendment speaks to reinstating the status quo. If there are to be any changes, then let those changes result as a consequence of public consultation, and let there not be an opportunity for that Minister of Labour or any minister of labour to include agricultural and horticultural workers in the Ontario Labour Relations Act against their will without consultation, without any discussion, without the opportunity for debate. We have made those changes, those motions to make certain that the wishes of the agricultural workers in this province are listened to. By agreeing to those changes and reinstituting the status quo, we will do so.

I am disheartened to hear that the government will not be supporting this, that it will be turning its back on the concerns of the agricultural workers in this province. This is just the first of a series of concerns by many people throughout this province, concerns that they have with respect to what these changes mean to their way of life, to their being able to operate in this province, to their being able to continue to deal with the issues at hand in a way that is sensitive to their concerns.

This bill, these concerns, these amendments as proposed by the Minister of Labour, and the adamant refusal to listen to the concerns from the agricultural community, fly in the face of those concerns which I have heard throughout the province, especially from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the minister have a response?

Mr Offer: I didn't ask for one.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Go ahead.

Mr Offer: No, if you wish to make a response.

The First Deputy Chair: Just for the honourable member's information, I ask the minister after each person speaks in the House if he has a response. Does the minister have a response?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'll wait for another speaker or two.

The First Deputy Chair: Further discussion? Questions?

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): Yes, I would like to continue now. This is the second day of debate concerning Bill 40. We only have two days to discuss the 600-plus presentations that were presented this summer to the committee that sat for five weeks, and un-

fortunately two days does not do justice to the concerns and the many valid suggestions for amendments that were made by people in this province.

However, we shall endeavour to do the best we can to make sure that the views and the opinions of all people in this province are at least heard and as many of those views put on the public record as possible. However, it is unfortunate, and I have to say this again, that the input is not being given adequate consideration.

I spoke the other day concerning my private member's bill for mandatory secret ballot for certification, and I'd like to move now to section 26 of the bill. One of the amendments the Ontario PC party is moving, one of 94 amendments we have introduced, is to section 26.1 of the bill. We would like to amend that section of the bill by adding the following section:

1540

"26.1 Section 51 of the act is amended by adding the following subsection:

"Mandatory secret ballot

"(2) For a collective agreement to come into effect, a ratification vote by secret ballot must be taken among the employees in the bargaining unit defined by the agreement and more than 50 per cent of the ballots cast must have been cast in favour of the collective agreement."

Thus again, as I said a few days ago, we believe it's absolutely essential that in the process of unionization all workers have an opportunity to cast a secret ballot to determine and make known their wishes as to whether or not they want to join a union. We also support the need for a secret ballot vote on the issue of ratification. Again, more than 50 per cent of the ballots cast need to support the collective agreement. I will be introducing a further amendment in support of a secret ballot vote for a strike.

Our overriding concern on Bill 40 is the fact that we do feel it infringes the rights and freedoms of individuals, and these amendments that we have introduced in three areas are an attempt to ensure that people, men and women, throughout this province have an opportunity to clearly be informed on the issues of what it means to join a union if they're voting for or against certification; also what is contained within the collective agreement and what are the implications of a strike, and that after these people have been fully informed, they then have an opportunity to cast a ballot free of coercion or harassment from any other source.

We feel this is one method we can put forward that would protect the individual, because unfortunately Bill 40 takes away rights and freedoms. It really does much to facilitate unionization and also does much to put power in the hands of the union leaders.

We are very concerned about the impact on the individual. I've heard from many people in this province who are union members, or who are not yet union members but perhaps will be some day, and they are very concerned about the consequences of Bill 40 and the fact that their rights and freedoms have been removed.

I would hope that this government, which talks about being democratic, which talks about respecting the rights

and freedoms of individuals, will support this amendment we have put forward.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister have any response to make?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'll wait for the first round, Mr Speaker.

The First Deputy Chair: Fine. Further discussions or questions?

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): I wasn't going to speak to this particular bill, because Lord knows enough has been said on all sides of the fence with respect to this particular issue. However, as you will know, some of the public campaigns that have been launched, both against the bill and this party, and a lot of the misinformation that has been perpetuated out in the public quite frankly warrant some debate, some dialogue. I think that enough members who are in support of this particular legislation must stand up and address a number of the issues that have been raised and that are being perpetuated to the public through the media and through paid advertisements.

As I sit and watch some of the commercials and some of the literature that is being put forward by a number of the interests that would like to see this labour legislation derailed, it's misleading for me, to say the least. That's putting it in the mildest language I can find that is acceptable in this place and will prevent you from ruling me out of order if I use the kind of language that in my gut I feel should be used in retaliation to this kind of rhetoric.

I sat the other day and I watched this commercial that was played on television. I believe it's entitled "Kill the Bill," and then the glass crushes on the television screen and it has this number 40 and this number 40 is angular. If you watch this commercial, and obviously if you don't know anything about the specifics of the legislation and what the legislation is intended to do, you would immediately assume and you would be aghast and say: "My God, what is happening in this province? My God, that's why we have the kinds of problems we have," because it renders a sense of alienation.

What you have is an individual out there who's looking for work and his plant is being shut down and he's being terminated. Quite frankly, it lends itself to a certain amount of uncertainty, an uncertainty that is being felt by a number of people in our society. Basically, the caption says, "If you want to protect your job, if you want to protect working people, if you want to stand up and fight for working people, then what you must do is kill the bill. Kill Bill 40."

As I sit back and I watch that particular commercial, I can't help but think of all the working people it would take to generate enough money, working people who would have to contribute \$5, \$10, \$1, \$2 each across the province to hire the consultants, to hire the scriptwriters, to hire all the other people it would take and you would need to hire in order to be able to put together that kind of campaign, that kind of advertisement, quite frankly, that kind of propaganda. I sit back and I see all these working people it would take in order to do that.

All the working people I've spoken to, all the working people who find themselves out of work, haven't contributed to any such organization, haven't contributed to any cause, haven't gone out and hired any consultants. They haven't hired the spin doctors, the scriptwriters, all those individuals out there who are being paid enormous amounts of money to shape public opinion, and they're shaping public opinion in such an inflammatory, underhanded, seedy way that, quite frankly, that's what's contributing to the downgrading, to the collapse in the economy that has taken place.

Just to bring you back to the commercial, if working people aren't the people who are contributing to these campaigns and if they don't have the resources to hire the people—the spin doctors and the scriptwriters and the cameramen and the actors—to put together these campaigns and these advertisements and these commercials, then who is? The question is, who is?

I'll tell you who it is. It's the big corporate interests. It's the big business interests. Those are the people who can afford the spin doctors. Those are the people who can afford the media campaign. Those are the people who are forking out not \$1, not \$2, not \$5 each, but are forking out tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars to run this campaign.

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That lends itself to another question, the question you have to ask yourself as you watch this commercial, as you sit there in your living room, out of work. You say: "Are these the interests, the big-money corporate interests, are these the people who want to help me out? Are these the people who want to put me back to work or are they just simply concerned with their own bottom line? Are they just simply concerned with preventing me from gaining some rights in the workplace, some rights for me to be able to defend myself, some rights for me to be able to stand up, for both myself and my family, in my workplace to ensure that their future is relatively secure? That's the question you have to ask yourself.

When you ask yourself this question in the face of the interests that are running the show, that are running the campaign, that are feeding into the media the fearmongering that's taking place out there, that is to me the most irresponsible act of all, because that is what undermines the structure of our economy. That chips away at the foundations that our economy is built on, and that's confidence. Quite frankly, when you erode confidence, that's when our economy and the ability of our people to carve out a living for both themselves and their family all begins to flounder. Quite frankly, that is the most irresponsible act of all.

As I sit back and I watch this particular campaign and the propaganda campaign around the OLRA, I have to ask myself, who is it? Who are those people who are pinning up the posters, who are writing the commercials, who are taking out the advertisements, who want to give themselves the semblance that they're really trying to protect me, the working guy who is out of a job? Who is it?

It's certainly not the people who want to help me out. That's the bottom line.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to make any comment?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Three brief comments, Mr Chair, the first dealing with the member for—my colleague.

The First Deputy Chair Mississauga North? Downsview.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Downsview. Forgive me.

I think the point he raises is an extremely valid one, and I want to indicate to this House about the comments he makes about the kind of information and the kind of misinformation that have been out on this particular piece of legislation, that they have not been helpful, have not helped the process we're going through and have not been particularly good for the province of Ontario as well. It has probably done a lot more damage than anything that's in the legislation itself, and I think it's worth all of us taking note of that particular point.

To the member for Waterloo North, I guess the answer, to me at least, is relatively simple. I want her to know, and if she has read the current Labour Relations Act she will know, there is a lot of protection there in terms of any possibility of false votes or misinformation or what the situation may be.

Section 76, for example, says: "No trade union or council of trade unions shall call or authorize or threaten to call or authorize an unlawful strike and no officer, official or agent of a trade union or council of trade unions shall counsel, procure, support or encourage an unlawful strike or threaten an unlawful strike."

Section 77 deals in the same way with the management people.

Section 78, the last one I want to refer to, simply says: "No person shall do any act if" he "knows or ought to know that, as a probable and reasonable consequence of the act, another person or persons will engage in an unlawful strike or an unlawful lockout."

It doesn't give all of the coverage that the member is asking for herself, but clearly it says that there is a lot of protection in the process that exists right now.

The other point that I'm constantly amazed at: Most unions, certainly for strike votes, and for certification, already require a vote, and in the majority of cases this happens. But this has been the process, with the other protections written into it, that has been in place in Ontario since her government brought in these provisions. They didn't see any reason to change them in the 42 years they served in Ontario, and I see no reason to change them now as well.

To the member for Mississauga North, I want him to know that I reject out of hand his argument that somehow or other we're trying to mislead or pull something on the agricultural community. He should know better than that, because I think he knows that we've been engaging in extensive consultations with them and that they are part, along with union members and along with others, of the committee that we've set up to look at the whole question of how we deal with agriculture. It is a little bit different. If I had my own druthers—he's right—I'd much rather see them under the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

Well, he's throwing his hands out, but he's not being very forward with his comments when he says that we are not prepared to make arrangements with them. In the consultations, we have made it extremely clear that we agree with all of the areas they've recommended to us, and we've told them that we did have the concerns about this one sector. However, we have said that we will not make a final decision on that as yet, and we are prepared to go with their recommendations.

Why are the regulation-making powers, which is something else he refers to in Bill 40, being maintained? Well, we continue to await the further report of the Task Force on Agricultural Labour Relations. They're still discussing some of these issues. I think, in the line that he himself uses, we should hear everything they've got to say to us. The task force has asked for a further extension of time, and we expect to receive its further report soon. Maybe we should do it all and make whatever decision we're going to make without hearing this. Maybe that's what the member wants, if he's going to be honest with this House.

The LRA regulation-making provisions will be dealt with in the bill, and that will deal with agricultural labour relations. They may be repealed in whole or maintained to a limited extent, depending on the scope of the agricultural bill. Since we haven't yet received the recommendations of the task force and haven't yet decided on the form, the legislation that will deal with agricultural workers, we won't deal with the repeal of the LRA provisions until these other matters have been considered.

But I have made it clear in this House, and I want to point out to the member—I'm not sure it makes any difference whether I tell him or not. We've pointed out in this House and we've pointed out to the agricultural community that's meeting with us as well that we will look at all of their recommendations and we will not proceed with a final bill until we've had the last sessions with them when they come in with the final report. I don't know what more he wants, other than to say, "Well, we don't need any more talks with them, even though you've asked them for those consultations." I don't find that a very positive question or position to take.

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any other people who wish to discuss or ask questions? The honourable member for Mississauga North.

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Mr Offer: I'll be dealing with a few other sections. I think the comments just made by the Minister of Labour are indeed the reason why so many agricultural workers in this province are alarmed. All they want is that, as they deal with these particular issues, the status quo be maintained—the rules that they have operated under for many, many years. Bill 40 changes that, without any question. The last comments by the Minister of Labour do nothing but heighten the concerns of agricultural workers across this province.

I would like to deal with that particular section of the bill which is, without question, the taking away of rights of workers in this province. That speaks to section 7, dealing

with the issue of full-time and part-time workers. It's an area which, in our very shortened hearings that took place, was a matter which was brought forward. As we will know, under the Labour Relations Act as it exists now, full-time and part-time workers cannot be combined into one unit because the board has stated that they hold a different community of interests, as they refer to it, and as such, they have always ruled against combining full-time and part-time workers. Under Bill 40, full-time and part-time workers can be combined if there is, as a result of a vote, 55% of the combined group.

Here are the concerns which I and my party have. Let us use the example of a group of workers in this province, 100 workers, 55 of whom are full time, 45 of whom are part-time. Under this bill, if all the full-time workers wish to be combined with the part-time workers, then it will happen. If none of the part-time workers wish to be combined, then notwithstanding their wishes it will happen; there still will be that combination of full-time and part-time workers.

We've had some discussion about this. As a result, I have proposed an amendment. I believe there are workplaces where the interests of full-time and part-time workers may, in their opinion, be the same. I also believe there are workplaces in this province where full-time and part-time workers do not believe their interests are the same. I believe it should be up to the workers of this province to make that decision. It should not be a bunch of politicians in some committee room saying that in all cases, in all aspects, in all areas, full-time and part-time workers always have the same interests, because we know that sometimes the workers believe, for their own reasons, that they do not have the same interests, and they want those wishes to be honoured.

So we have proposed an amendment. The amendment simply reads as follows: that in the event there is a workplace with both full-time and part-time workers and in the event there is a request to combine the full-time and part-time workers, then the combination should only take place if there is a majority in both the part-time and a majority in the full-time working sector who wish to be combined.

I was very upset at the committee stage when the government members voted against allowing the workers to express their own opinions, as to whether they want to be combined, in a free secret vote. I was very upset that they turned their back on the workers in the part-time and full-time sectors in this crucial area.

We are going to once more bring forward that amendment. It is an amendment in an area where, without question, the rights of workers have been taken away. We believe there are occasions where full-time and part-time workers should be combined, where the old rules of community of interests may not be appropriate, but let that decision rest with the workers of this province. Let those decisions rest with the part-time and full-time workers of this province, not with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, not with elected representatives in a committee room at Queen's Park. Let the workers decide how they wish to be governed, in the way they wish to be governed, in the manner they wish to be governed.

The First Deputy Chair: Would the minister like to make any response?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'll wait till the next round.

The First Deputy Chair: Any other debate or discussion? The honourable member for Waterloo North.

Mrs Witmer: I'm going to speak now to section 32 of the bill. Our preference would be that this entire section would be eliminated. This would remove the ban on replacement workers from the bill. This was certainly another one of the more controversial aspects of the bill.

However, before I began my discussion, I'd just like to read from a letter I received yesterday from a constituent in Waterloo. He writes to Mr Rae:

"If you truly believe that the social charter should include the right to work, then why are you condemning workers in Ontario, or anywhere else in Canada for that matter, who refuse to obey big unions when returning back to their workplace during a labour conflict?

"The closing statements of your October 26 swan song were strong and clear, 'Let's get people back to work.' If you sincerely mean that, I implore you to reject your labour reform proposals for Ontario.

"Please advise as soon as possible how you will approach the labour crisis of this province. For the love of Canada and Ontario, do the right thing."

I've quoted from that letter because I want to tell you that in the last week or so I have received numerous phone calls, faxes and letters from individuals throughout the province who are very concerned about Bill 40. They really are not aware, however, that by next week this will be law. They still think there is an opportunity for discussion and for debate. Unfortunately, this individual was misled, because in a response that he received from the minister on September 21, the minister says to him:

"Thank you for your letter re Bill 40.

"There will be sufficient opportunity for the government as well as the opposition parties to move amendments to the bill. Please be assured that your views and the views of all interested parties will be taken into account during consideration of any and all amendments to this legislation."

I would have to say that this individual and thousands of others throughout this province have been deceived, because there has not even been an opportunity for us to get all of our 94 amendments on the public record, and I think it's very unfortunate that we are not able to reflect the views of all Ontarians in our discussion.

However, getting back to section 32 of the bill, the ban on replacement workers, the proposal that the government is suggesting is going to tilt the economic balance in favour of unions. The limitations on the number of employees who can perform struck work will impede the ability of an employer to continue the operation of a plant and to fill orders to maintain customer goodwill. This change is going to change a strike, not into a means of communication, but it's going to now become an economic blockade.

Furthermore, employees are not going to be able to cross a picket line any more to return to work, even if they do not agree with their union representatives. This is an

infringement on their rights and their freedoms to work and, as the miner Jim O'Neill said concerning the strike in Yellowknife, "It is important the country understand these people who went back to work were just exercising their democratic right."

Now that people can no longer cross the picket line, I wonder what the government's going to think about when you take a look at the single parent who's struggling to raise his or her family and who needs to go back to work to earn money to support that family. By preventing this individual or any individual from crossing a picket line and going to work if that is his or her choice, this is a significant intrusion into employee freedom and employee rights. These people no longer have any rights or freedoms.

The government is telling us that the ban on replacement workers is needed to reduce picket line violence, yet we all know that collective bargaining in this province is not characterized by conflict as it was in Quebec. In this province, 95% of all collective agreements are settled without a strike, and violence on the picket line is rare as opposed to common.

Let's take a look at Quebec, because Quebec was different, Quebec is different. Quebec has had more strikes or lockouts than Ontario in 12 of the 14 years since Quebec's anti-scab law was implemented in 1978, even though Quebec has fewer people and Quebec has a smaller economy. Ontario, fortunately, has had fewer strikes due to a balance between the employee's right to go on strike and the employer's right to continue operation during a strike. Now that balance is being totally destroyed.

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Let's take another look at Quebec. The number of person-days lost due to strike or lockout in Quebec grew from 1.3 million in 1977, before the anti-scab law was introduced, to 4.1 million in 1980. Over the same period, the number of person-days lost due to strike or lockout in Ontario only grew from 1.1 million to 1.6 million. If you take a look at the Quebec experience, it is anticipated that once Bill 40 is implemented in the province of Ontario, the number of person-days lost due to strike or lockout is going to increase in this province.

Furthermore, I think it's important to know that the primary basis upon which the Conseil du patronat dropped its challenge to the Quebec legislation was the 13 years of procedural wrangling it took to have the Conseil status to challenge the legislation work its way through the courts. This is hardly the employer endorsement of the legislation that this government claims. It's false. In fact, they came and they told us that personally during the hearings.

I want to tell you that it's been anticipated that Bill 40 may actually increase violence because of the right of the employee to refuse to do work, because strikers' anger is going to intensify since they know that employees working during a strike or a lockout could have said no. We all know that the 60% strike vote that is required can be fulfilled at any time prior to the commencement of bargaining.

Let's take a look at the impact of the ban on the replacement worker. We heard from almost every group that made presentations this summer about the severe economic impact. What did the Automotive Parts Manufacturers'

Association tell us? They told us that this bill fails to recognize the independent nature of today's economy, where businesses are largely dependent on just-in-time supply and delivery of goods and services which were frequently sole-sourced through long-term contracts.

Over 80% of the Canadian automotive parts business is with the United States and operates on a just-in-time basis. If they fail to deliver their product and they shut down an automobile assembly line at the cost of millions of dollars and impacting thousands of people, the business is going to be lost, most likely for ever. Even more importantly, they told us they won't get a chance to quote on future business unless they can demonstrate a plan to assure continuity of supply under all conditions.

Of course, that's what happened in Quebec when the replacement ban was introduced on workers. They have built other plants south of the border and they have built other plants in the province of Ontario in order to have a secondary source of supply to fulfil their contractual obligations, and that's what's going to happen here. You're going to see people moving south of the border or to other provinces where they don't have this similar ban, or they're simply going to phase out their operation and they're going to move elsewhere. They cannot afford to stay here.

What about the retailers? What did they tell us about the ban on replacement workers? They indicated that provisions which inhibit the continuance of operations mean that retailers lose revenue, customer loyalty and ultimately the ability to remain viable. This is particularly true for grocers, because their customers cannot postpone food purchasing and wait for the resumption of the store's operation.

In questioning one of the grocers who appeared before the committee, who had been involved in a strike, he told us that it took one year before his business was back to where it had been before the strike. There is no longer any customer loyalty. I can tell you, if there is a ban on replacement workers if there are strikes, we're going to see some of our small grocery stores totally disappear.

What else did the retailers tell us? They told us that many of the food products carried in grocery stores are extremely perishable and cannot be held for future sale should a strike occur. The government has not even considered that fact.

In addition, the government has not considered the fact that many independent grocers are the sole source of groceries in small communities. What happens to the people in small communities if there is a strike, even a strike of short duration? I can tell you, they are going to be prevented access to the daily food requirements of their families.

These are the types of issues and concerns that were raised about the ban on replacement workers which this government—and I see you laughing. You have no concern for people in the small towns and isolated areas of this province, none whatsoever. A strike could effectively close the stores, and people would have no access to groceries, or drugs as well, for that matter, in small communities.

What about the impact on the newspaper industry? Again, this government has failed to recognize the implications of the ban on the replacement worker. The proposed limit on

the use of replacement workers during a strike would make it almost impossible to publish a paper.

Quite simply, you know that newspapers cannot stockpile news and obviously readers are going to turn to other sources, either print information or they're going to turn to the electronic media. Again, it is very costly for the newspaper industry to reclaim not only their lost readers but also their lost advertisers.

I think what I've indicated here is that this ban on replacement workers is going to have a severe economic impact on people in this province. There could be job loss. There will certainly be loss of investment, because this section of the bill is one of the sections that investors from outside this province are not prepared to cope with.

There's also a human factor. There's the possibility that people in isolated communities will not have access to drugs or groceries. That's never been even considered by this government.

I want to conclude the remarks on that section for the time being and make reference to the Yellowknife strike. I was quite concerned when the minister indicated that we'd be better off in this province if there was no automatic right for a company to use replacement workers. There was almost an assertion that that tragic act seemed to justify his new labour legislation and provided some leverage.

This government has argued that the introduction of replacement workers into a company is a cause of violence and that if you eliminate the right of companies to hire replacement workers you eliminate the cause of violence.

To me, the suggestion that the use of replacement workers is the cause of violence is a very serious distortion of cause and effect, because violence is caused by striking union members who refuse to obey the most fundamental laws of this country. I do not believe anyone has the right to use force or violence against someone else except under circumstances such as self defence. Anything else is totally unwarranted and deserves prosecution as a moral and legal wrong.

The implication of the government's position that violence is somehow justified and understandable and that therefore replacement workers must be eliminated, to me that's totally wrong. I'm very concerned about the statement that was made in justifying the ban on replacement workers by the minister, because to me, violence is always wrong no matter what. Nobody has the right.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to reply?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'll wait till the round is completed.

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Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): The critic for the Conservative Party talks about the impact on just the one side when it comes to replacement workers. Obviously, she hasn't talked to too many of the workers who have been affected by other people who have taken their jobs when they're on a legal strike. How do you answer some of these people? How do you talk to your neighbour who's taken your job because you're out there on the picket line trying to get a decent wage and decent working conditions?

I truly believe, as the minister does and as this government does, that a lot of violence will be eliminated on the picket line when people are not allowed to take other people's jobs when they are legally out on strike. I think that's a very important piece of this legislation.

There are some other points. We talk about part-time workers. I just want to read a little bit from a letter I received from a worker. The worker says:

"I have been employed in the retail industry for the past 20 years, both full-time and part-time, in independent and chain stores. If all of us Ontarians want to compete at a national and international level, then we must upgrade our existing labour laws so that we are all the same, with fairness and justice in the workplace."

The critic for the Liberals thinks it's funny when someone gets up here and says we have to have fairness and equity in the workplace, that people don't have to be treated differently.

"The right to organize is an essential factor of all working people. If this right is denied, we are depriving working people, especially minorities and newcomers to this country."

Another issue mentioned here today is workers who are out on strike and want to return to the workplace. The Liberals and Tories seem to think it's not very democratic and not very fair if those workers can't go in to work while there's a strike. Just for their information, the fact of the matter is that workers in the union have a democratic vote to decide whether to go on strike. They also vote on whether they return to work when they want to ratify the collective agreement. So they do have a vote, and the majority rules in both instances. They vote to go on strike and they vote to return to work.

Members keep making all these statements about workers wanting to go back to work if they choose to, even though they're out on a legal strike and the majority says, "We're staying out on strike until we get a decent collective agreement." Are they saying that if the majority of workers says, "We want to stay out on strike" and the minority says, "We choose not to stay out"—that's really what you're saying. I think you should decide one way or the other, but it is done under a democratic system with a vote.

Also, there's the issue dealing with agriculture. The Minister of Labour put together a task force to deal with the issues pertaining to agriculture, because the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Agriculture and Food agreed there is a uniqueness in the agricultural community and the same rules could not apply or would not necessarily work in the agricultural industry as they would in an industrial industry.

As a matter of fact, the task force had people from the agricultural community, workers in agriculture, Ministry of Labour people and Ministry of Agriculture and Food people. All the recommendations at this point are pretty well agreed to by the Ministry of Labour. The member gets up here and starts saying things, and I don't think he really knows for sure; I don't think he's talked to the right people on that particular issue. Certainly this task force with

farmers' representation on it is coming back with advice to the Ministry of Labour to deal with that particular issue.

I'd like to also raise one more point. I think we should make it clear here, because we've heard it so many times, especially from the Liberal government over there—I'm sorry, the past government; the only time it really put any good legislation in was when we had the accord in 1985 and forced it to do it.

The fact of the matter is, we talk about this legislation, the anti-replacement worker legislation. I've heard them get up in the Legislature and in other areas and say it's the wrong time. They had the opportunity to do it then and they refused to do it. I was here in 1985, and we asked the Liberals to implement that when the times were really booming in 1985. They refused to do it then and now they're saying it's the wrong time. But it didn't take the Liberal government too long to put things down and leave us with a nice little deficit to try to cover up and to try to straighten out some of its errors.

Anyhow, thank you, Mr Chair. I just wanted to make a couple of points of clarification here. We'll give some other members a chance to speak on this issue.

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to make any comments?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Some brief comments. I thank the member for Essex-Kent, and I think it might be worth adding that this party, the members and the committees we set up, can hold views themselves, can listen to people and accept those views even though they may not jibe entirely with the views they have on any particular issue. That's something I think the member for Mississauga North hasn't understood, or can't understand.

On the full- and part-time issue, the Liberal amendment would require the OLRB to use a vote to test for majority support among full- and part-time employees separately, prior to combining the employees in one bargaining unit. I don't know whether he reads the debate from the previous day or not, but it's almost the identical question that one of his own members asked and that we answered in some detail. I don't think it matters to him, because it's not really a serious exercise he's going through.

This Liberal amendment assumes that full- and part-time employees have different interests and should continue to be treated differently. This would continue to make organizing a less meaningful option for part-timers. I know he agrees that that would be a good idea, but part-timers are particularly vulnerable and unlikely to be interested in organizing where they're unable to organize with their full-time colleagues. That's a fact of life.

All other jurisdictions in Canada—a point I made with his colleague—and the federal government allow part-timers and full-timers to organize together, and this is the area where Ontario has some catching up to do. He can jiggle and laugh all he wants, but he's raising an issue where we're the only province left that doesn't allow it, and you really have to ask questions about that kind of position.

The other problem with the motion is that it would require mandatory representation votes in order for full-

and part-timers to be combined. This is likely to prolong organizing campaigns and result in increased employer interference.

The determination, I can tell him, of appropriate bargaining units is a matter for the labour board. The member will know that existing LRA section 6(1) already allows the board to conduct a vote on this issue, and we have not amended that provision of the act.

Once again to the member for Waterloo North, I think it's important to spend a bit of time on the replacement worker issue. I can't help but comment first that, provided we have this in place in Ontario, a province of about 10 million people—we have it in place in Quebec now, a province of 6.5 million people or better, and it's one of the cornerstones of the BC legislation which just came in today—we're going to have between 19 million and 20 million of the people in Canada covered by this kind of legislation. With all the rhetoric that's been built up against this particular issue, it would appear that an awful lot of people in Canada think there's more than a little bit of merit in this issue, which is one that gets over some of the nastier provisions that are possible in labour-management relations in our country.

1630

I think it's important to put what has been the impact of anti-scab legislation on strike activity in Quebec. Why are there more strikes in Quebec than Ontario? A large number of variables have an effect on strike activity, of which legislation is simply just one. The objective of the Quebec law, as with Ontario's, is to reduce picket line violence, and I can say that there is little doubt whatsoever that this objective has been achieved in the province of Quebec.

There were more strikes in Quebec than Ontario before the replacement worker legislation was introduced, as there have been afterwards, so it is simplistic and incorrect to suggest that this has something to do with the law. In fact, when a comparison is made between the 10-year period before Quebec law was introduced and the years following its introduction, there have been improvements in a number of areas. The average number of person-days lost due to strikes fell after the law was introduced. The average number of days lost as a percentage of all time worked also fell, as did the number of employees involved in stoppages. There was a slight increase in the annual average number of work stoppages, but this must be considered in the context of three of these other improvements.

The president of Conseil du patronat du Québec, Ghislain Dufour, has conceded that the law has reduced the number of lengthy disputes and helped negotiations in some cases. He has also been quoted as saying that "the last strike at Canada Post had us questioning our position, which was one of opposition about the law on replacement workers." I think there are some significant comments there.

I think it's also important to point out that the government has gone to considerable lengths to design a replacement worker provision that will focus on flashpoints in the collective bargaining process. While similar to the Quebec law, it is a made-in-Ontario model which in fact leaves

employers with more latitude to continue to operate during a work stoppage than the law in the province of Quebec.

We know that the use of certain types of replacement workers causes violence on picket lines and the new law will focus on these particular areas while leaving the vast majority of employers unaffected. As the member herself has said, 95% of all agreements are settled without work stoppages. Where there are work stoppages, employers who continue operating mostly rely on site supervisors and other on-site employees from outside the struck bargaining unit. Bill 40 would in no way affect this practice. If Bill 40 had been in effect in 1991, only 19 employers in total would have been affected. Only a handful of these would have been in the manufacturing sector, and none in Ontario's auto parts sector would have been affected, in spite of all the talk about that area.

We have consulted extensively in developing the replacement worker provision and are confident that the result will address the real problems without hampering the operations of the large majority of employers in Ontario who care enough about good working relationships to understand the problems that the use of certain kinds of replacement workers can cause. I think the case is overwhelming.

I just want to end with the few comments the member raised about the danger to the small grocery store in her own riding. To begin with, it's an area—and I have no hesitation in saying that I think it's one of the areas we're looking at that deserves better treatment—that is not very well organized and is likely because of the size and the type of operations and the difficulties in many cases in organizing to remain one of the less organized areas.

It's an area where, if she uses her own figure of 95% of settlements being decided without a work stoppage, it is likely to be so minimally affected that it really raises the question of why this becomes a centrepiece of some of the argument. Indeed, the fact that the provision is there is very likely, in the very few cases where there might possibly be this kind of problem, to make both sides, union and management, take a second look at it and see if they can't reach an agreement, rather than having to go the strike route. So I just don't think the argument holds much weight whatsoever, and of course I reject it.

The First Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Offer: Before I go on to the section I would like to deal with, I think it's important to speak briefly about the comments made in the area of part-time and full-time workers. Mr Chair, with the greatest of respect, it is as if you speak to a wall when you speak to the issue of part-time and full-time workers.

The issue we have brought forward time and time again is not that part-time and full-time workers should not be able to combine, but that their combination should only take place if a majority of the part-time workers and a majority of the full-time workers in a workplace wish to be combined. Simply, if the workers, the men and women in the workplace, wish to be combined, if they believe they have the same interests, then let that happen. But let it not be deemed by any Legislature that in all cases it must happen. The NDP government just turns its back continu-

ally on the rights of workers to express their own opinions as to whether they do or do not wish to be combined.

I wish to speak to section 33 of the bill, which speaks about repealing section 75 of the act. I will be brief in this matter, because this is another example of the NDP government taking away the rights of workers.

What does section 75 of the act say? It says, and I will paraphrase, that where a worker is engaging in a lawful strike and wishes to go back to work within six months from the commencement of the strike, then indeed he or she must be taken back to work; the right of a worker to look at his or her own family during a strike and to decide what is in his or her best interests and to make that choice.

What has the NDP government done with respect to section 75 that I have read, which has been in the Labour Relations Act for many years? What has the NDP government done with respect to the right of a worker during a lawful strike if he or she wishes to return to work, for whatever reasons he feels are important? The NDP government, in Bill 40, has repealed that right. No longer will a worker in this province who is on lawful strike have the right, within that time period of six months, to go back to his job. The NDP government has repealed, has stripped, has taken away the rights of the men and women in this province who are on strike, for their own reasons, to return to work.

The First Deputy Chair: I take it that the minister would rather defer. That's fine.

1640

Mrs Witmer: I'd just like to respond briefly to the response by the minister concerning the impact on the individuals living in small communities who because of the replacement worker ban might be prohibited from accessing the grocery store or the drugstore. I'm pleased that the minister did recognize that there might be a concern in that area.

I guess, however, that's been the disappointment in the discussion about this bill. The government has never taken the time to acknowledge what the impact of this legislation might be, and this is one of the areas of impact that should have been considered. There's never been an opportunity to look at the economic impact. There's never even been a demonstrated need for this bill.

What the government has attempted to do is to introduce a bill, Bill 40, that will facilitate unionization and try to cover all sectors of the Ontario economy. It's unfortunate there was not a sector-by-sector study of the impact of this legislation on each sector. Certainly one of the sectors that's going to be hardest hit by this bill is the retail sector. I'm concerned that the government did not allow sufficient time for that type of study, but I'm at least pleased that the minister recognizes that there might be some unforeseen consequences.

I'd like to move on to section 32. As I said, our preference would have been to eliminate the entire section relating to the replacement worker ban. I'd like to speak as well to the amendment we would like to introduce that would allow bargaining unit employees to cross a picket line. This of course is within section 32.

As I indicated before, employees at the present time have the freedom of choice as to whether to strike when the union leadership calls a strike. I believe this is an essential right which workers have to protect their own individual interests. They have the right to decide whether to strike or to work.

If, as we all know sometimes happens, employees feel that their union leaders are out of touch or that they are acting unreasonably, or if they feel they simply cannot afford to strike or do not support the union's position on philosophical grounds, they can vote with their feet and stay at or return to work. That is a right employees presently have and that is a right we feel employees need to continue to have: the freedom to choose whether they want to cross the picket line and go to work or join the strike.

The legislation should not take away this existing fundamental right of an individual of a bargaining unit to refuse to engage in a strike and to come to work. Employees should always have the final say on whether and when to call an end to their economic sacrifices, and it is a sacrifice when an employee decides to support a strike.

Furthermore, I believe that the employee's right to return to work at the present time promotes the union's responsiveness in bargaining and continues to give that assurance that the union serves the role of agent of the employees and not the reverse.

Furthermore, at a time in this province when economic conditions are poor and the need for employment income is great, restrictions on an employee's choice to earn income are contrary to the general purpose of labour legislation, which really should be to enhance the freedom of employees to make choices concerning their employment situations. We will be introducing this amendment, which would allow bargaining unit employees to cross a picket line.

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): This piece of legislation, not unlike any other piece of legislation, is subject to what I would very much call predictive opinion. That's the opinion as to how the legislation will work when it's finally enacted and that examines, of course, the cause-and-effect relationships that will exist as a result of any piece of legislation.

I think it's in order to congratulate some in the business community who obviously have, in a number of successful attempts, confused people and managed to convince people that notwithstanding some of the excellent provisions contained within the legislation, overall it's a bad piece of legislation. I think that's most unfortunate.

I have witnessed on many occasions, as I happened to sit on the committee and travel throughout the province as well as attend the public hearings right here in this building, individuals who have come and put forth their case and spoken mostly of myth rather than fact. I just want to relate one story to you that I think really illustrates why the people in this province and this country are in fact much different from our neighbours to the south of the border and why we still have an economy here, because some would have you believe that once this piece of legislation passes all the businesses in this great province of ours will

(1) come to a grinding halt and (2) close their doors and move south of the border.

A representation was made to the committee by the Rubber Association of Canada. After they made their presentation, I spoke to one of the representatives of the Rubber Association of Canada, because as you well know, there are a number of rubber industries in my town of Kitchener. Because it was a private conversation, I won't relay the individual's name, but he told me this: He said that the company he worked for is in the process of closing down one of its operations here in Ontario. As a result, they're beefing up an operation in Texas. In fact, they are beefing up the operation in Texas to the extent that they decided to gut the entire plant. They went out and bought the latest technology that's available to people producing this type of product and put this new equipment and machinery in the plant.

In doing that, they had to lay off their workforce for six months. They not only laid off their present workforce, but when they recalled they almost doubled the size of the workforce. But what they discovered, having brought all these people back into this new Texas plant, where by the way the minimum wage today is \$1.60 per hour, is that the workforce couldn't operate the machinery because over 60% of the workforce they planned to have working in this particular plant are functionally illiterate. They couldn't read. Nor could they write.

He relayed that to me in terms of comparing it with the Ontario workforce, where we don't have the severity of that problem, as well as looking at the skills that the workers here in Ontario have as opposed to Texas. What originally was supposed to be very much a cost-effective, cost-reduction exercise turned out to be much more expensive than any of them planned, and now they find that they're in the process of educating a workforce. They couldn't obviously rely on the assumption that the workforce that was there did have the necessary skills in order to perform the jobs adequately.

I think that speaks volumes to the big difference between living here in Ontario as opposed to any state south of the border. I think it speaks volumes to the way workers in this province are treated, perhaps more as assets, rather than in other parts of the globe where they're, in my view, treated more as an expense item.

When we put all the rhetoric aside, after the GST and after the trade agreement, and particularly the value of the Canadian dollar, which the 22 manufacturers in my area of the province have told me is one of the worst problems they're facing, I can't believe that having been through all that coming at us at once, we are now going to lose—take your pick; we've heard the figures 250,000, 300,000 jobs or 500,000 jobs—that we're going to lose that number of jobs, that we're going to lose any jobs because we simply have decided to re-examine the rules.

We've decided to rewrite the rule book on how employees and employers are going to relate to each other in the future. That's essentially what we're talking about. I know the argument has been made that this makes us not as competitive as some other parts of the plant. Let me tell you that a lot of factors go into competitiveness. This, in

my view, is an important part, but in the overall scheme of things it is a very tiny part of what makes a competitive situation. Surely to goodness we shouldn't get into a bid war where we reduce ourselves to the lowest common denominator of any other country, because in a situation like that we can only lose.

1650

The First Deputy Chair: Does the honourable minister wish to make any comments?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Just briefly. Once again, the member for Kitchener indicates an understanding of some of the issues we're trying to deal with. This is as provocative as I will get, but I wish there was the same level of understanding across the way—there certainly isn't—on many of these issues.

I want to say to the member for Waterloo North with regard to the issue that is constantly being raised over there as to whether or not there was enough study, that I will just repeat to her, as I have before, that we have been almost two years since we started the process on this legislation with the original Burkett report, that we have gone through 550-some sessions across the province of Ontario and that we have had all the major umbrella groups and organizations that banded together to fight the legislation in as well, not once or twice but three times, at the Ministry of Labour. I don't know of a bill where there has been the kind of study and input into it that we've had into this particular piece of legislation.

I want to tell her also that in terms of replacement workers and workers being able to go back into their own plant while a situation exists, this was an area we gave a lot of serious thought to. It bothered some of our members and we discussed it at some length. I want to tell her also that one of the experiences I've experienced personally in my own constituency is how deep and bitter and divided and long the original strike that established the big Steel local in my community, 1005, was and the splits that occurred there between the people who stayed in, when they fought for their first contract, and the people who went out, and how 20 and 30 years later some of the bitterness still existed in those forces.

It's part of the whole replacement worker issue that we've talked about. I don't think we gain anything by weakening that provision. Once again, I report the success in the province of Quebec; there's no question about the success down there. Now it's also one of the provisions in BC legislation that has just been moved in that province.

I want to say also, in response to the member for Mississauga North on repealing section 75, that I said earlier, I think, that the bill focuses on the major cause of confrontation and lasting bitterness in the workplace following labour disputes. In particular, the changes would restrict the use of new hires, the use of whom are known to cause some of the problems.

I should repeat that there are very few disputes in which the restricted employees are used, because most employees rely on supervisors and managers. In 1991 only seven disputes involved the use of returning strikers.

The existing section 75 does allow strikers to return to work within six months after the start of the strike, but it fails to provide any statutory guidelines on the contentious issue of return to work after a strike or lockout. The member will know that this return-to-work protocol is often an issue that prevents the end of a lockout or strike even after all contract issues are settled.

Bill 40 provides, I think, a fair, seniority-based rule that would apply where the parties are unable to settle their own return-to-work protocol. It allows an employer to deviate from the seniority rule where certain employees are necessary for the startup of operations, and I think that's a valid argument. We have repealed the six months' right to return because it does conflict with the replacement worker provisions.

I think that's a valid answer to that in spite of getting started off on the wrong line initially. That's, I guess, just an indication that some of us at least can, from time to time, make mistakes and acknowledge them.

The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate?

Mr Offer: Just in response to the last comment by the Minister of Labour, no matter how you slice it, you have taken away the right of workers, who may have held a job for 20 and 30 years, in a strike situation to return to work because they believe it is their right and their choice, based on the things and factors that are important to them, many of which may be family matters. You have made the workers of this province in a strike situation replacement workers of their own jobs. You have taken away their rights.

I would like to speak to a matter which I recognize was brought up earlier on Thursday, and that deals with the members of professions, section 7(4) of the bill. As I see Bill 40, it contains architecture, dentistry, engineering, land surveying and law. An amendment has been proposed to include nursing, as a result of a great many representations on this issue.

I recognize that the government, during the clause-by-clause deliberation of this bill, refused to respond to the amendment as to whether it agreed or disagreed with the inclusion of nursing in section 7(4) of Bill 40. I have read the Hansard and have seen what purports to be a reason by the minister. It falls far short of any viable reason as to why the nursing profession in this province should not fall within section 7(4) as it so wishes.

I would like to remind the Minister of Labour, as I, I must say, suspected that the government would not respond to the amendment in clause-by-clause, and it would not respond, because it had every intention of voting against it but was not going to inform the members of the committee until we got into this stage of the proceeding, I proposed an amendment on behalf of my party, not an amendment to the bill but a motion. The motion said: "Set up a task force. Set up a task force with Ministry of Labour officials and representatives of the Ontario Nurses' Association. Set up a task force to look at the issues with respect to including nurses under section 7(4)."

Mr Minister, I know you were not at any of the hearings, but I would like to report to you that by a recorded

vote of my motion, every one of your members, every one of the government members, voted against the setting up of a task force to deal with the issue of nursing. That is a matter of a recorded vote, Mr Minister. It is a matter of public record. It is a matter that everyone is fully aware of, it is a matter which, Mr Minister, I believe you should be aware of, and I believe that this matter could be resolved while we are dealing with this bill, even in the shortened period we have at our disposal. This is a matter which has been known to the ministry for some time. Representations have been made. Positions have been made clear and the reasons therefor.

There has been a further motion, as I indicated, that there must be a total commitment on the part of the ministry, not in any wishy-washy terms, but a commitment to include the nursing profession under section 7(4) of Bill 40, as will be included in the Ontario Labour Relations Act, to deal with it expeditiously, to deal with the issues and to deal with the matter effectively, expeditiously and sensitively. It is something that can be attained. The issue is whether you have the determination to do so.

I looked at Hansard on Thursday. Clearly, the government is not prepared to move forward with this crucial change.

1700

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mrs Witmer: I'd just like to point out my agreement with my colleague from Kitchener. I believe we have in this province a very highly skilled and well-qualified workforce. Certainly it's because of that highly qualified, hardworking and well-skilled workforce that some of the companies that may be prepared to move outside of Ontario will have to give serious consideration to that fact. That is one of the reasons they would choose to stay in this province, simply because of that. We have an excellent workforce and I don't think anybody could deny that point.

I'd like to move on to another amendment that we are suggesting. As I say, our amendments have tried to incorporate the views of not only the business community and individuals but also the municipalities, school boards and different professional groups.

We spoke earlier to the need to amend area 7 concerning nurses, and I'd like to speak now to section 32, an amendment which would ensure that engineers accountable under the Professional Engineers Act will make the decision on the number of replacement workers needed in an emergency situation. This is something the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario have asked for. They are convinced that 73.2 in the original bill and the government's amendments to it present and continue to present a serious danger to the public health and safety, because it prevents the delivery of critical services by professional engineers operating under the Professional Engineers Act of Ontario. They have indicated that they support the amendment I have put forward and the motion to amend section 73.2 of section 32.

I would concur that the use of replacement workers must be the sole decision of those who are accountable.

Unfortunately, Bill 40 puts a procedure in place that will take the decision-making process away from the professional engineer.

Although the government has amended the bill to allow the board to make a predetermination prior to a strike or lockout to determine the manner and the extent to which the employer may use specified replacement workers, it does not ensure that the union will agree to participate in an early hearing. In addition, since it is unlikely that professional engineers will be appointed to the Ontario Labour Relations Board, they will not be involved in the decision process.

If the bargaining unit does not agree that a pre-emergency situation exists, then the employer has to follow a prolonged and complicated procedure to appeal the decision through the Ontario Labour Relations Board. As the engineers say, this is going to put the public at risk with respect to life, health and safety. In addition, the employer will be at risk with respect to assuming liability for (1) danger to life, health and safety, (2) the destruction or serious deterioration of machinery, equipment or premises, or (3) serious environmental damage until the decision is made.

This in fact makes life, health, safety and the environment a part of the bargaining process at the negotiating table. Bargaining leads to compromise, and life, health, safety and the environment should never be compromised. The safeguarding of life, health and safety has always been the prime purpose of the practice of professional engineering as outlined in the Professional Engineers Act of Ontario. Our amendment would ensure that the responsibility for public health and safety remains in the hands of those held responsible under other current provincial legislation. We hope the government would support the amendment to ensure that engineers who are accountable under the Professional Engineers Act will make the decision on the number of replacement workers needed in an emergency situation.

The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you. Further debate?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I understand we only have about two and a half minutes left on this side, so the only point I want to make on the nursing issue, because it's been raised again, is that the PC amendment that I gather both the Liberals and PC are supporting is one that ONA itself opposes. It seeks the addition of the phrase "registered and graduate nurses" and they want to exclude RNAs. I'm just wondering what the position is of the other two parties on that.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Offer: From the last comments of the Minister of Labour, I would have expected that he would be putting forward an amendment to deal with the issue, as he has. I would have expected the Minister of Labour to say that if there are some issues to be discussed, then he will abide by the request our party made for a task force to deal with the issue with respect to including nurses in section 7(4) of the bill. The minister was silent. I can only read that as saying that the minister has absolutely no intention of dealing

with or moving on this issue, which is so important to so many people.

I would like to deal with what for me was a crucial area in the legislation. There were, of course, many areas that were very important, but this part of the bill is one which, in the limited time we had available to us, and notwithstanding the fact that we did not hear, because of the time allocation motion by the government, 25% of the people who were wished to be heard in the public hearing—I think those who are watching the television of these proceedings should recognize that when one speaks about consultation, there were in the area of 1,100 or 1,200 groups and associations that wished to be heard on this bill, and because of the time allocation motion moved by the government, we could not hear 25%. Mr Chair, from your experience, you will know that those 1,100 groups represented hundreds of thousands of individuals.

That will be a lasting legacy of this bill, the rule changes that had to be brought in 45 minutes after the introduction of this bill in order to grease its way through the Legislature, in order to shut the door on so many people who wished to be heard on the bill. It is no excuse, it is no answer, for the minister to say that they spoke with some people prior to the introduction of the bill. The issue before many people and for many people was: "We want to speak on the bill. We want to speak on the provisions as were introduced." That's when the government, without any question, used the new rules to slam the door in their faces, a legacy that will rest with this bill for its duration.

I want to speak to section 8 of the bill, and that is the organizing section. I imagine that if there was one area that was spoken to most often, it was that area. It was clear to me that there were difficulties in the whole area of organizing. Currently under the act, if there are 55% or more of the members in a workplace who sign union cards, then that workplace is automatically certified. If there is less than 55% but greater than 45%, it triggers what is called a "representation vote." The NDP government, by Bill 40, has maintained the 55% for automatic certification but has lowered the threshold or the trigger point for a representation vote from what now exists, 45%, to 40%.

We took a look at those provisions, and I will tell you, as the Labour critic for my caucus, that we had concerns. I will tell you that our concerns were based on the rights of workers to know and to freely choose whether they do or do not wish to be part of a union.

This is a bill which I have raised time and time again as taking away the rights of workers. There is no provision under this bill which would inform workers of an organizing drive in the workplace. There is no provision in this bill which would make it mandatory for workers to be given a list and an understanding as to what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act.

1710

We prepared amendments which would, firstly, give notice to all workers in a workplace that an organizing drive was taking place and, secondly, that when that notice of an organizing drive was given, then the rights of workers would be posted so that they would know what they can do and what cannot be said to them. I believe that

notice, as I had indicated in the earlier debate, would be a notice as prescribed by the labour relations board as an impartial, neutral body. I brought forward those amendments as a first step in an organizing drive to giving notice to the workers of this province.

What did the NDP government do to the amendment which called for notice being given to all workers that an organizing drive was being taken? They voted against that. They voted against notice to workers in a workplace that an organizing drive was taking place. Those who are watching will have to ask themselves the question as to why a government which professes to work in the best interests of workers would vote against giving workers notice of an organizing drive.

Also, it was to me and my party absolutely necessary that workers not only be given notice of a drive but also be given notice as to what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act. There is no provision that now makes that mandatory and I and my party believe that is necessary.

When that amendment was brought forward to the committee, the NDP members voted against giving notice to workers as to what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act. I must say that, to me, that signified an intent by the government to keep organizing drives in the shadows, as opposed to out in the open.

The issue is not whether one is in favour of or against unions. That is not the issue. The issue is that where an organizing drive takes place, do we want the workers to be informed that it is taking place and what their rights are? Those who are watching would say that should be a given. It is incredible that the NDP government voted against that.

The next area that we dealt with was the area of communications. We had heard in our public hearings that there were examples of intimidation and coercion. We had heard of examples where a worker in an organizing drive felt that he had been intimidated, that there was fear, that there was coercion.

As a party we felt and still are strongly against intimidation and coercion from whatever source, so we propose an amendment. Our amendment states that in an organizing drive, firstly, any communication to a worker must take place in the presence of a member of the Ontario Labour Relations Board and, secondly, if there is any written information given to the workers, either by the organizing drive or by the employer, it must be approved by the board to take away the possibility and potential of coercion and intimidation. When that amendment came forward, what happened? The NDP members voted against neutral communication to workers in an organizing drive, voted against reducing the possibility of intimidation and coercion.

We went further. We felt that it was necessary that a vote take place in a secret, free, democratic way. There is no one in the province of Ontario this week who does not fully understand what a secret ballot vote is. It was just last Monday when members not only in the province of Ontario but throughout this country engaged in a free vote; they voted the way they felt was right for them. What we wanted to do was give to the workers of the province the same right within their workplace that was exercised by

people throughout this country just two days ago. What happened when that came before the NDP members of this committee? They voted that down. They said no to a free, secret ballot vote.

The government has proposed an amendment to reduce the threshold from 45% to 40%. We proposed an amendment that said the threshold should not be 40%; the threshold should be 30%. In other words, if an organizing drive has commenced and the workers in the workplace sign union cards which reach 30%, then that should trigger a vote. We believe that the lower threshold will reduce the incidence of intimidation and coercion and will enhance the right of workers to freely exercise their right to vote yes or no.

What did the NDP government members say to reducing the threshold from 40% to 30%? They voted against that. They said no to reducing the threshold. They said no to communicating with workers through a neutral body. They said no to notifying workers as to what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act. They said no to a secret ballot vote, the majority of which would carry the day.

I believe there are many people throughout this province who say it is high time we give to the workers of this province the rights that everybody else has in elections or referendums, the right to freely choose how they wish to be governed, either in the party of their choice or the union or not of their choice. It should be the right of workers of this province to make that choice, and we stand opposed to any amendment as proposed by the government on Bill 40 which takes away that right, as it does, of workers to freely exercise their right to choose the type of workplace they want.

We oppose a bill which does not make it mandatory that workers in this province should be informed of their rights, we oppose a bill where a government stands against neutral communication and we oppose a bill which does not give to the workers of this province protection against intimidation and coercion from whatever source.

1720

That leads me to my final point on this section. We heard examples—and I do not believe that this is the norm, but it is and does happen—where in an organizing drive an employer might engage in some intimidation. We also heard that there is the possibility, and we heard examples, of unions in an organizing drive engaging in intimidation, misinformation. To me and to my party, it is important and paramount for us that workers be protected from intimidation and coercion from whatever source. This bill fails dramatically in that area.

We provided an amendment, an amendment that said that if an employer in an organization drive has engaged in an unfair labour practice which is, without question, intimidating coercion and where the true wishes of the employee, the worker, cannot be ascertained, if that is proved then that workplace should be unionized. That should be the penalty, because we want to stop intimidation and coercion. That is why we proposed an amendment that would reinstate the penalties that now exist in the Ontario Labour Relations Act for worker intimidation by employers.

That is only half the story, because we could not turn our back on those stories, those examples which we heard, of intimidation and coercion coming in certain instances from the organizing union. We believe the worker must get equal protection. If the organizing union has engaged in any activity which is an unfair labour practice and which is viewed as intimidating, coercive, where the true wishes of the employee cannot be ascertained, then it is incumbent that this law put a penalty on that organizer, and the penalty we had brought forward by amendment was that the application would be immediately dismissed and that it could not be brought forward again, by that union, for one year—protection for the worker from intimidation, coercion, misinformation, from whatever source.

We brought forward that amendment on the basis of what we believed is in the best interests of workers, the workers' right to freely choose in a free, secret, democratic, free-from-intimidation, coercion and fear manner. What did the government members do to that amendment which increased protection for workers in an organizing drive? Did they vote in favour of increasing protection or did they vote against it?

The recorded vote in that committee will show that the NDP members voted against the enhanced protection of workers in an organizing drive. The NDP members voted against communication. The NDP members voted against informing workers as to what their rights are. The NDP members voted against a secret ballot vote. The NDP members voted against lowering the threshold from 40% to 30%.

We will have to ask ourselves the question as to why that position was taken, which clearly takes away the rights of workers to freely choose as to whether they wish to be part of a union or not.

The Second Deputy Chair: Any further debate? The honourable member for Waterloo North.

Mrs Witmer: There were many outstanding presentations made to the committee this summer, and those who were not able to be heard sent in written submissions that individuals had obviously spent hours putting together.

I would like to go back now to section 32, the ban on replacement workers. There are many groups in this province who have a lot of concern. They are the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Municipal Electric Association, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Consumers Gas, Centra Gas, Union Gas and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. These people are concerned about the ban on replacement workers because of the potential impact it can have on human beings within this province.

I am very disappointed that the government, in its amendments, did not expand the definition of "essential services" in order to ensure that people throughout this province could be protected in the event of a strike.

I would like to move, in section 32 of the bill, subsection 73.2(2) of the act, that we amend it, first by striking out the word "residential" in the first line of paragraph 3.

This is an amendment that has been asked for by the children's aid societies. This would ensure that all

children's services throughout the province would be considered essential. This amendment is broader than the government's amendment, which restricts the definition to residential and emergency care. This restricted definition is of grave concern to people at the children's aid societies.

We would also add the following paragraphs:

"(a) the provision of water and electricity and the transmission or distribution of gas as defined in the Ontario Energy Board Act;

"(b) deemed essential services."

This amendment would maintain electric service during a labour dispute. If you think about the consequences of extensive, frequent or lengthy power disruptions to a hospital, a nursing home, a sewage treatment plant, high-rise elevators or traffic light systems, I think you can see there is clearly a need to maintain electric services. It's absolutely critical, and we need to expand the definition of "essential services."

The same thing applies to the transmission and distribution of natural gas.

We would also add the following paragraph:

"The provision of municipal services that are required under the Municipal Act."

We would again expand the definition of "essential services," because the Association of Municipalities of Ontario told us that municipal services are dictated by statutory obligations. Failure to perform required tasks can result in a danger to life or the imposition of fines or imprisonment. For example, municipalities have an obligation to perform building inspections. If the inspections were reduced in number or frequency, you can see there is a possibility for potential danger, and then the municipality would be liable. So it's absolutely essential that we expand the definition of "essential services" for the provision of municipal services that are required in the Municipal Act.

We would also add the following paragraph:

"The definition of 'essential services' be expanded to include the operation of elementary and secondary schools."

The provision of education is a basic function of government. This recognition and the substantial tax support which this recognition implies means that education should be regarded as an essential service. For example, what would happen if there was a strike of school bus drivers? If it was a rural board, this could disrupt the entire transportation system of a school board, and if the school board could not arrange alternative transportation, which it would not be able to do under the terms of Bill 40, you could close down the entire school system within that jurisdiction.

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Another example of the impact of Bill 40 and the ban on replacement workers would be that if the people responsible for the heating system went on strike, no one else would be permitted, by law, to operate the heating equipment. Again, it would force the closure of the entire school system.

Thus, we would recommend that the operation of elementary and secondary schools be included in the definition of "essential services." Obviously, by not doing so, the

government is totally disregarding the concerns and the needs of people in this province.

Finally, we would also add that the provision of food be made an essential service if people in the community would otherwise be prevented from obtaining fresh produce. Why are we asking that this be included as an essential service? Well, let's consider the small grocers in small communities. I've talked about that before and the Minister of Labour did acknowledge there might be some inconvenience.

If you have a strike in a community, how do individuals in that community then get their daily food requirements? We've seen this trend towards daily shopping, every-other-day shopping. People no longer go to shop once a month or even once a week to stock up.

If there is not some provision made in these rural or isolated communities for individuals to get food, the legislation banning replacement workers is going to hurt the very people the government is trying to protect and says it's trying to protect. It's going to hurt the women; it's going to hurt the minority groups, the single-parent families, the children, the low-income families, the elderly and the people on welfare.

Think of isolated municipalities such as Thessalon or Cochrane. Where are these people going to get their food or be able to drive to or have access to drive to, if there's a strike and they're not able to get access to the small independent grocer? I hope the government will consider the viewpoint of these groups in this province and permit the expansion of the definition of "essential services."

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? The government does have, I believe, a minute; two minutes. Do you want to reserve your time, the members for the government?

Interjection.

The Second Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): Do I speak from here or do I speak from my chair?

The Second Deputy Chair: The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour can speak from there.

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): I just want to address myself to the issue of essential services. In committee we discussed this at great length particularly in terms of the children's aid society and the school board issue.

I should point out that within the amendments to subsection (9) and subsection (15) specifically, of that section 73.2, there is, in the area around designated replacement workers, room for the employer groups to speak with the employees and designate well in advance of any altercation that comes up in terms of their labour disputes, if there ever is one. Given, as the member opposite has said, that 95% of them are resolved without any kind of work stoppage, they have the opportunity, within the bill and within the subsections of the replacement worker and designated replacement worker sections, to work out their own arrangements which suit their workplace specifically.

That whole aspect was not understood during the hearings, and I think that when there were discussions later, and when we made a couple of clarifications within the

process of clause-by-clause, those areas were clarified and in fact the amendments now after the clause-by-clause have worked out the concerns the CAS had, as well as the school boards and the utility factors.

Mr Offer: Dealing with the issue of section 32 and the replacement worker provision, I think it became patently obvious during the public hearing debate that this was not a bill of just business on one side and labour on the other. That is certainly the way the government wished to portray the bill, that if you were opposed to the bill you were opposed to labour, but in fact nothing could be further from the truth, as was indicated from our amendments. We provided amendments which seek to enhance the rights of workers to freely, democratically exercise their right to choose how their workplace is to be governed, without fear and intimidation.

On section 32, dealing with replacement workers, we heard deep concerns from school boards, municipalities, utilities, hydro, gas, children's aid societies, all with very deep concerns about what the replacement worker provision will mean to them and to their ability to carry out their responsibility. The issue of children's aid societies, dealing with the impact on children, dealing with the best interests of children: That is what is prescribed by another law. They believe this bill and the provisions will act as a barrier to their meeting the needs and concerns of children. School boards, hydro utilities and gas companies all had very serious and deep concerns over this provision.

To us, it is a matter of individual rights and freedoms. We do not quarrel with the right of workers to associate, to join unions of their choice and to strike if and within the bounds of the law, but we also believe that while you can embrace and protect those rights, so too can we embrace and protect the rights of individuals to attempt to keep their businesses operating, to allow school boards to continue to operate, to allow children's aid societies to continue to function in the best interests of children, to permit municipalities to repair stop signs, if necessary, hydro utilities to repair stoplights, gas utilities to maintain furnaces for all. This bill will be a barrier to that being able to be performed.

The time runs short in this very limited amount of time which the government has dictated to us. It is clear that this is a bill which is not in the best interests of this province. It is a bill which has sent out a negative message that this a province where one can invest, can create jobs and can maintain the security of existing jobs. This is a bill on which this government has been asked to conduct an economic analysis from day one. They have steadfastly refused. They do not know what the impact of this bill will be on the retail, agricultural, commercial and manufacturing sectors of this province. It is a bill which I fear will cause job loss and will cause loss of investment for our province.

The Second Deputy Chair: That completes the time of the official opposition. Further debate from the Progressive Conservative Party, with some time remaining.

Mrs Witmer: I'd like to conclude my remarks by responding to a statement by the parliamentary assistant

where she assumes that the concerns of those individuals who were concerned about the definition of "essential services" had already been addressed. I can assure the parliamentary assistant that the children's aid society, as recently as last week, indicated to us that it is totally uncomfortable with the government's amendments, as are the other areas and groups that I spoke to earlier.

I can tell you that throughout this province there is widespread fear and uncertainty and concern that the government has not listened to the viewpoints and incorporated the concerns into Bill 40. There seems to be a total lack of consideration.

I'd like to end by moving one final amendment which I feel is absolutely necessary, because this is a bill which has created discord in the province which has a potential to have a very negative economic impact.

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I would move that the bill be amended by adding the following section:

"Review by legislative committee

"64.1(1) Two years after the day on which this section comes into force, this act shall stand referred to the standing committee on justice for public hearings into and a review of,

"(a) the effect of this act, its implementation and administration on job creation, investment levels and patterns, union membership levels and certifications;

"(b) the change in the level of unionization in different sectors of the Ontario economy since the coming into force of this act;

"(c) the number of strikes and lockouts and the number of days lost due to strikes and lockouts since the coming into force of this act; and

"(d) wage levels, management practices, business start-ups, labour productivity and economic competitiveness in Ontario.

"Mandate

"(2) The standing committee shall report its findings to the assembly and may make recommendations to address any negative consequences arising from this act and its implementation and administration."

This amendment adds a new section to provide for mandatory review of the legislation which I hope this government will support. If they truly believe this is going to increase harmony and cooperation in this province and lead to a better atmosphere in the workplace, they have nothing to fear from a mandatory review.

This amendment, then, will require that two years after the date on which the bill comes into force, it will be referred to the standing committee on justice, which will conduct a public inquiry into the effects of the legislation, its implementation and administration on job creation, investment levels and patterns, union membership levels and certifications, the change in the level of unionization in different sectors in the Ontario economy, the number of strikes and lockouts and the number of days lost due to same, wage levels, management practices, business start-ups, labour productivity and economic competitiveness.

The standing committee has the mandate to report its findings and to recommend amendments to address any

negative impacts resulting from the act, its implementation, its application and its administration.

I would hope, as we come to the end of our discussions—and we've only had two days for discussion; in fact, I think I've only had an opportunity to put forward about 45 of the amendments that the PC caucus had prepared on behalf of individuals and groups in this province. It's been a very short time line. There has certainly not been adequate time for discussion or debate, just as there was not adequate time during the hearings this summer.

I believe the government has handled the entire process badly. It has been badly flawed. I still maintain that there should have been a process where we established a tripartite committee composed of labour and business and government. I wish that committee could have identified the problems with the Labour Relations Act, had an opportunity to discuss possible solutions, and then been able to arrive at a consensus.

I regret that the government has never indicated any willingness to take this act before such a committee to truly have a debate that would have thoroughly considered all of the concerns that we have tried to raise these last few days and also during the committee hearings. Unfortunately, that was never done. We will never know, because the

government didn't conduct an economic impact study, what the impact is going to be on job loss and investment in this province.

I can tell you that I know of many companies that are considering downsizing their operations and reconsidering their positions in the province of Ontario once this bill does become law. I hope there will not be a negative impact on employees in this province, because the right of a worker to a job is the most basic right of any individual.

Again, I am concerned that the government did not truly consult with people in this province. They may think they have consulted, and they may even have listened, but they certainly did not incorporate the differing viewpoints and perspectives into the legislation.

The Second Deputy Chair: That concludes the time for the Progressive Conservative Party. The government has nine seconds.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I simply want to make the point that consultation does not mean that we have to agree with the opposition on any of the issues it has raised.

The Second Deputy Chair: This completes the time allotted for committee of the whole.

[Report continues in volume B]

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Attorney General/Procureur général Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 28 October 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

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Mercredi 28 octobre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 28 October 1992

[Report continued from Volume A]

House in committee of the whole.

LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI A TRAIT AUX RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL ET À L'EMPLOI

Continuing consideration of Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui a trait à la négociation collective et à l'emploi.

The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve): We will now proceed to voting on clause by clause and all amendments as submitted to the table prior to 4 o'clock this afternoon. This is voting section by section, clause by clause on Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment.

Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, have no amendments. Is it the pleasure of the House that sections 1 to 3, inclusive, carry?

All those in favour of sections 1 to 3, inclusive, please say "aye."

All those opposed to sections 1 to 3—

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): Mr Chair, on a point of order.

The Second Deputy Chair: On a point of order, the member for Mississauga North.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): No, no, no, no.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): You can't have a point of order in the middle of a vote.

Mr Offer: Why won't the government members allow me to ask some guidance from you? We have a question as to whether the vote should be section by section and not sections 1 to 3. What if one wishes to vote in favour of section 1 and oppose section 2?

The Second Deputy Chair: It has been customary, when there are no amendments, to include. If it's the pleasure of the House that we do sections 1, 2 and 3 individually, the Chair has no problem.

Interjection: No.

Mr Offer: Why not? It's a vote.

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): Let's not play games.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order. In the event that someone wishes to vote on an individual section in a different way, then on the group we shall handle them one section at a time.

All those in favour of section 1 standing as part of Bill 40, without amendments, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Section 1 carries as shown.

Section 2 of Bill 40: All those in favour of section 2, without amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

There has been agreement that the vote will be stacked. Under 14 July 1992, part of this correspondence reads as follows: "Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put, the members called in once and all deferred divisions taken in succession." This vote is therefore deferred.

1750

We now move on to section 3 of Bill 40. Section 3 has no amendments.

All those in favour of section 3 of Bill 40, please say "aye."

All those opposed to section 3, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be deferred.

We now move on to amendments to section 4: amendment to subsection 4(2) by Mr Offer.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Offer's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further to subsection 4(2): amendment by Mrs Witmer.

All those in favour of Mrs Witmer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mrs Witmer's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment to section 4(4): Mr Offer's amendment.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment to subsection 4(4), please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Offer's amendment to subsection 4(4), please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

We move on to section 5: moved by Mr Offer, an amendment to section 5 is out of order.

Further amendment to section 5(2.1) of the Act: Mr Offer's amendment.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Offer's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 6 is shown as not having any amendments.

All those in favour of section 6, without amendments, please say "aye."

All those opposed to section 6, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Moving into amendments to section 7: Mr Offer has moved an amendment to subsection 7(1), subsections 6(2.2) to (2.5) of the act.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Offer's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment to subsection 7(1), 6(2.5) of the act, moved by Mr Mackenzie.

All those in favour of Mr Mackenzie's amendment to section 7, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Mackenzie's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment to section 7: Mr Offer's amendment, subsection 7(2), 6(4.2) of the act.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Offer's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): You've got to count the members, don't you?

The Second Deputy Chair: We need five members to stand.

Subsection 7(2), Mr Offer's amendment to 6(4) of the act.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment to section 7, subsection 2(4), Mrs Witmer's amendment.

All those in favour of Mrs Witmer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mrs Witmer's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

We now move into section 8, where we have some amendments again.

Mr Offer has moved an amendment to subsections 7(2) and (3) of the act.

Those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment to section 8, Mr Offer's amendment to subsections 8(0.1) to (0.3) of the act.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment, to subsections 8(2) and (3) of the act, Mr Offer's amendment.

Those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

Those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment to subsections 8(2) and (3) of the act, Mrs Witmer's amendment.

Those in favour of Mrs Witmer's amendment, please say "aye."

Those opposed to Mrs Witmer's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote shall be stacked.

Final amendment to section 8. Mr Offer has moved an amendment to subsection 8(6) of the act.

Those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

Those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 9 of the act has no amendments. Therefore we shall vote on section 9.

All those in favour of section 9, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

We're moving into amendments to section 10.

Mr Offer has moved an amendment to section 10, to section 9.1 of the act.

Those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Further amendment to section 10, section 9.2 of the act, Mr Offer's amendment.

All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

1800

Section 11 has no amendments. All those in favour of section 11, please say "aye."

All those opposed to section 11, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote on section 11 will be stacked.

Section 12 has several amendments. Mr Offer's amendment to section 12 is out of order.

Mrs Witmer has moved an amendment to section 12, subsections 11.1(2) to (7) of the act. All those in favour of Mrs Witmer's amendment, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Mr Offer's amendment on section 13 is out of order. Therefore we will be voting on section 13 without amendments.

All those in favour of section 13, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

That vote will be stacked.

Section 14 is presented without amendments. All those in favour of section 14, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On a point of order, Mr Chair: We're voting on each section at a time. I would like to recognize the clock, it now being past 6 of the clock, 6:01:57 to be exact. Under the standing orders, should you not be adjourning the House until the next sessional day?

The Second Deputy Chair: It is my understanding that the House will continue sitting until we have dealt entirely with Bill 40.

Mr Eves: Mr Chair, with all due respect, standing order 9(a) says, and it's very clear: "Except as provided in clause (c), and in standing order 34, at 6 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays"—I do believe this is one of those days—"the Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion until the next sessional day."

In my opinion, Mr Chair, and I'm submitting to you, we are voting on each individual section of this bill. There's one vote on section 2, there's another vote on section 3, there's another vote on section 4 etc. We are going through one vote at a time. I see no reason why, having completed a vote on a particular section—committees would adjourn. If this was a committee of the Legislature sitting downstairs, it would adjourn at 6 pm, and I submit to you that we should be adjourning at 6 pm.

The Second Deputy Chair: The vote will continue because the House is in the process of dividing and therefore, according to time allocation, we will continue.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Chair: I was going to bring to your attention the time allocation. It is silent about whether or not we complete the business before 6 of the clock. It does say that we shall proceed to attempt to get the votes done. It contemplates, in my view, a completion of the business by 6. That has not occurred.

The standing orders govern, as you know, Mr Chair, unless they are specifically overruled by the provisions of the time allocation motion. There is nothing in the time allocation motion, having just examined it, that says that our work should continue past the regular rising time for this House.

Mr Chairman, I address your attention now to the time allocation motion, and it is, in my view, within your mandate to indicate that we are in violation of the standing orders and that we should now rise and report to the Speaker and come back at this another day.

The Second Deputy Chair: The process of division has started and, under time allocation, the process of division must be completed.

Mr Eves: Mr Chair, on the same point of order: With all due respect, I have read the time allocation motion. There's absolutely nothing in this time allocation motion that says the vote will continue after the adjournment time of the House. There's nothing in this time allocation motion that says that rule 9(a) is superseded or dispensed with. There is nothing under the new standing orders with respect to time allocation motions in any one of the new standing orders that I can see that talks about overruling standing order 9(a).

As I read the rules, the only rule that can overrule section 9(a) is standing order 33, which talks about where a member is dissatisfied with an answer given during question period and can request that the House sit beyond 6 of the clock for the purpose of dealing with that issue. There is no other standing order. If there is one, I wish that you would draw my attention to it. I stand to be corrected. But quote me the standing order that says or quote me from the time allocation motion the wording that says this House will sit beyond 6 pm.

The Second Deputy Chair: Under section 14, at 5:45 on the sessional day when the process begins, it must not be interrupted until complete, and we are in the process.

Mr Eves: It doesn't say that.

Mr Elston: Mr Chair, on that point, the process is with respect to the voting on a particular item. We are going clause-by-clause, vote-by-vote. One process is the instigation of a vote with respect to a clause in committee. It is not voting on the entire bill. If that were the case, we would never get out of this place, and I think that's an unreasonable interpretation.

Just one other point while I stand. It is quite clear that today when I rose to give notice on the basis of the fact that there is no indication whether a notice has to be given written or orally, the Speaker has indicated quite clearly that he is going to hold this House to a literal and very stringent interpretation, word by word, of the material before us to deal with the conduct of business. Mr Chair, the Speaker has clearly indicated that you must read the words exactly and not stray from them, as the Speaker reminded me of that earlier in the day. You cannot, Mr Chair, run this place in two ways. You can't run it tightly for one person and then extend this type of interpretation to solve another problem. We're asking, as a matter of privilege, that you be consistent.

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member for Nipissing on a point of order.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I believe we have here a situation where the standing orders have come into conflict with the time allocation motion, perhaps something that wasn't anticipated.

Mr Elston: Yes, just because they don't anticipate it.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): By your side.

Mr Eves: By you. Where is it in here that says to sit past 6?

Mr Harris: The fact of the matter is that in ruling one way or the other, we are contravening, if you like, the spirit of the time allocation motion. On the other hand, we are contravening the spirit of our standing orders if we continue now beyond 6 of the clock.

Mr Chairman, in view of the seriousness of this, I would ask you to take the various arguments that have been put forward under advisement and take some time before making this ruling and reflect on that. Perhaps through you to Mr Speaker, you may want to consider over the next day or two hearing other arguments in chambers, because I believe this ruling could very seriously call into question, if you rule in favour of proceeding now, the standing orders that are there. I would ask you, Mr Chairman, given the seriousness of that, to take some time to reflect on this ruling.

The Second Deputy Chair: On the same point, the honourable member for Sudbury East.

Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines): On the same point of order, Mr Chair: I'm going back to the motion which was carried in this House, even though there was a division, on July 14, 1992, and this is with respect to the time allocation motion.

I want to point out to you again what it says, which is: "At 5:45 pm on that sessional day, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto and report the bill to the House. Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put, the members called in once and all deferred divisions taken in succession."

So it seems to me, Mr Speaker, that clearly, by the time allocation motion that was passed in this House on July 14, 1992, we should proceed until all the questions have been put and a vote taken at that time.

1810

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: The member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: I rise, Mr Chair—

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order, please.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: The member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: Mr Chair, under standing order 6(b)(i), it very specifically says that this House is not authorized under any circumstances to sit extended hours unless there is a consent of some other form. In fact, if the standing order is to be complied with, then we cannot meet after 6 o'clock whatever that time allocation motion says. It in fact is out of order to contemplate it, because this says that extended hours are only contemplated in the last eight sessional days in December and June.

It seems to me that (a) only if there is specific provision to extend the hours, which there is not, or (b) only if there is no mention in the standing orders otherwise, can we extend the time of sitting to complete business. These standing orders say there is no business to be conducted after 6, and you would have to rule in violation of section 6(b)(i). In fact, you would allow the government to do indirectly what it cannot do directly, which is to move a motion by its majority to extend the sitting hours of this House. You cannot allow them to do indirectly what they cannot do directly. This would preclude that.

The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you. I appreciate all of the advice. The honourable member for Algoma.

Hon Mr Wildman: In the interests of expediting the proceedings of the House and also in complying with the motion passed on July 14, could you please rule on whether or not you have deemed all of the motions to be put as required in the motion?

The Second Deputy Chair: We are in the process of, and we have not had a motion from the floor to deem them to have been put.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are wasting some valuable time. The Chair intends to continue. The process is now in motion. The member for Parry Sound.

Mr Eves: With all due respect, I would like your ruling as to whether or not we are in the middle of a vote, because it seems to me that the whole basis of the government's argument for why we can sit past 6 pm is that we're in the middle of a vote.

I have just demonstrated to you that we are not in the middle of a vote. In fact, several members on our side of the House have come in partway through this "process," as you call it. We're either in the middle of a vote or we're not. If we're in the middle of a vote, the members cannot, as I understand the rules, leave the chamber and come and go as they please during the middle of a vote. They must remain in their chairs. Then why were some members able to come in partway through this process?

I'd like a ruling as to whether we're in the middle of a vote or not. If we're not, I have a motion that I would like to move. I move that this House adjourn for the day.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are in a process, committee of the whole, with stacked votes, and we are in the process of leading to a vote. We are in the process. We're wasting a great deal of time. Proceeding.

Mr Eves: Mr Chair, with all due respect, I would like a clarification: Are members free to enter and leave the chamber during the middle of a vote, yes or no?

The Second Deputy Chair: They are not during a vote. We are in the process leading to a vote.

Mr Eves: So we're not voting, so we're not in the middle of a vote. Is that right? Is that correct?

The Second Deputy Chair: We are in the process.

Mr Eves: Mr Chair, we are either in the middle of a vote or we are not. If we are not, the House should be adjourned. If we are, the doors should be locked and people shouldn't be coming and going. It's as simple as that.

The Second Deputy Chair: I want the member for Parry Sound to understand that the process is that the vote—an agreement has been made, decreed—

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): No agreement was made.

The Second Deputy Chair: It's in the July 14 correspondence.

Mr Eves: Mr Chairman, with all due respect, show me the words in the July 14 motion that say we agreed to sit past 6 o'clock.

The Second Deputy Chair: It simply says, "Put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendment thereto and report the bill to the House." We are in the process.

We move on to section 14. Section 14 has no amendments.

Those in favour of section 14, without amendments, please say "aye."

Those opposed to section 14 please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 15, without amendments.

All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The section will be stacked.

Section 16, without amendments.

All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 17, without amendments.

All those in favour please say "aye."

Those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 18, without amendments.

All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 19.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Chair.

The Second Deputy Chair: On a point of order, the member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: I regret to advise you of this, sir, but in the case where we have difficulty in dealing with the standing orders, we have been advised by the Speaker that we are to raise the issue with the Chair of the committee and that nothing can be done until we raise the matter with you.

It is my view, sir, that we have here, obviously, a difference of opinion. We believe there is nothing in the time allocation motion that prevents us from adjourning the committee of the whole and coming back to complete all the votes, because the time allocation is silent. The standing orders are quite specific that only during the last eight days may the government move to extend the sitting of the House.

Mr Chair, we would ask you and the people in this House, as a point of order, to rise now, sir, and consult the

Speaker for a ruling on the point, because we believe it is necessary to have one made.

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member for Bruce has a very valid point of order.

Hon Mr Wildman: Are you challenging the ruling of the Chair? He has already made his ruling.

The Second Deputy Chair: I want to ask the honourable member for Bruce, are you challenging the Chair?

Mr Elston: Yes.

The Second Deputy Chair: Yes, he is challenging the Chair; it was my opinion. This House will now rise and report to the Speaker.

1820

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): Point of order, Mr Chair.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are pending and awaiting the arrival of the Speaker, so I cannot take a point of anything right now.

Mr Callahan: It has to be done immediately.

The Second Deputy Chair: It is in the process of being done.

Mr Speaker, the committee begs to rise and report because of a challenge to the Chair's ruling that we indeed are in a process leading to a vote. There has been a challenge to that decision and I am now seeking advice from you, sir.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Parry Sound.

Mr Eves: Mr Speaker, we have asked the Chair of the committee of the whole House to rule as to whether in effect we are indeed in the middle of a vote. We have suggested to the Chair of the whole House that under standing order 9(a), on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays when the House sits, except during the last two weeks of any session, the House must adjourn at 6 of the clock.

The only exception that standing order 9(a) makes to that standing order is standing order 33, which of course comes into question when a member, during question period, serves notice that he or she is dissatisfied with the answer, and then the House is permitted to sit beyond 6 pm on those days.

I don't want to put words in the mouth of the Chair of the whole House, but I asked him very directly whether we were in the middle of a vote or not. He didn't directly answer that question. He said we were in a process that was leading up to a vote.

We obviously were not in the middle of a vote, because as you well know, Mr Speaker, during the middle of a vote you cannot come and go out of this chamber as you wish. The doors are locked. The members who are in the chamber must remain in their places until the vote is completed. You cannot walk in halfway through a vote. Every one of these five doors coming in here—except for yours, which would make it six, of course—were open, and members came freely, as they wished, during the various stages or clauses of the bill being discussed in committee of the whole House. So we obviously were not in the middle of a vote.

Under the time allocation motion moved by the government—I believe July 14 was the date—it talks about starting to put the questions in committee of the whole House at 5:45. It does not say that standing order 9(a) is overruled. It does not say explicitly that the House will sit beyond 6 pm. It does not say, “Notwithstanding standing order 9(a), the vote shall continue until it’s completed.” It is totally silent on that issue.

I believe we have had an indication from the Chair of the committee of the whole House, in fact we have proof, that we were not in the middle of a vote. We have not voted. We have not been in the middle of a vote. Various members are still coming and going out of this chamber, so we obviously are not in a vote.

According to standing order 9(a), I would submit to you that this House should stand adjourned at 6 pm until tomorrow.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I regrettably asked that this application to you be made, first of all, because I was the subject matter of another ruling by you earlier wherein you literally and very closely followed each word of the standing orders and made sure you abided exactly by the words under the standing order under which I had stood to address a notice of a motion that I wished to put with regard to Bill 40. That being the case, I would expect now that you will stay very tightly to the same interpretative style of the standing orders.

I rise to point out three standing orders, one under section 9(c), which talks about the manner in which sitting past 6 of the clock can be accomplished. As you know, if it is against the will of 12 members in the House anywhere, the motion is defeated when it is placed by the government. That is a very specific indication that you may not sit past 6 of the clock in this House to do anything except complete a vote.

A vote itself is what we normally describe to be a process. You cannot talk about the process of a bill as being all-inclusive in completion of a particular bill’s votes in their entirety. For instance, in committee of the whole, you can’t say it is one single process to start at clause 1 and finish at clause 75. That is not a process; that is a series of processes designed to end the entire matter of the question.

There is an exception to the extension of hours, when 12 members are unable to stand in their places to block an extension of time. Quite clearly, under standing order 6 you are able, as a government, to extend the hours of sitting past 6 of the clock for the purpose of cleaning up last-minute business, or at least the business that has to be done before the break occurs. That’s quite clear.

Knowing that is the situation, there is nothing in the standing order itself, as I would agree with my friend from Parry Sound, that says you can sit past 6 o’clock in the House to do any of the business at all. In fact, you must comply with the standing orders in all regards if the time allocation motion itself is silent upon the issue. It is silent upon the issue.

All we need to know is that each of the votes can be put by the Chairman of the committee of the whole in series at another sitting of the committee of the whole House. He—in this case, he—would be able to comply fully with the

wording of the time allocation motion. It does not say that all questions shall be put before 6 of the clock. It does not say that all questions need to be put after 6 of the clock. It does not say that the House is extended to complete all of the business of the day. It does say that the committee of the whole, when it deals with Bill 40, must go directly to finish all of the votes necessary to dispose of the work of the committee of the whole with respect to Bill 40 when it meets for that purpose again. No more amendments, no more debate, no more talking about any of the amendments; it just has to be completed in series.

1830

But when the standing orders are violated by a time allocation motion under the auspices of the new standing orders that you already know about, you cannot allow a small-l liberal—if I may describe it that way—interpretation to overrule the very specific and the very tightly worded lines in the standing orders, which prevent us from meeting past 6 of the clock for any purpose except under the purposes described in 6(c) or except if the government gets away with moving the motion to extend the hours of the House. Mr Speaker, that is quite clear.

I just remind you again of how you shut me down earlier today by relying tightly and specifically on each word that is in the standing orders. I would ask you to interpret the standing orders tightly and specifically. I would ask you, as a result of your earlier decision today, to rule in regard to the time allocation motion tightly and specifically.

Just one last point: Any time people move to upset the standing orders, it is a grave, grave step to be taken, although these people here seem to think it’s a matter of routine and course. Any time somebody takes such a grave step, Mr Speaker, you must read what is literally put in there, voted on and passed, not what you feel should have been, not what you think he dropped out of there that makes his problems greater. You, sir, have an obligation to protect us and to protect the integrity of the standing orders when they are not specifically taken away from by these allocation motions.

Mr Speaker, I ask you to rule that it is past 6 of the clock, I ask you to rule that this House now stands adjourned and I ask you to rule, sir, that “process” does not mean the process of committee of the whole, because we all know that committees of the whole House have sometimes sat not only for one or two days at a time but several days, and we have been interrupted from time to time to recognize the clock and move on to other business.

The Speaker: The government House leader.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I find this debate or discussion on this point of order interesting. I think it is important to understand that when the voting procedure started a while back at 5:45, there were only three members of the opposition even here. The Labour critic for the—

Mr Eves: That’s not true. I was here, you were here.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order, order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the House to come to order.

Interjections.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): You're supposed to ring the bells for a vote.

Interjections.

Mr Mahoney: You're such a sleazebag, David.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the House to come to order.

Mr Mahoney: Making smart-ass remarks like that.

The Speaker: Would the member for Mississauga West please come to order.

Interjection: Mr Speaker, on a point of personal privilege.

The Speaker: No, would the member just remain seated for a moment, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the House to come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I was summoned to the House because of an important matter. The very least members could do would be to remain quiet so each of the three parties can make their points to the Chair and the Chair will have an opportunity to make a decision.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, on a very—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Cooke: Very briefly, Mr Speaker, I ask you to review the time allocation motion that was passed in this House on July 14. In one of the paragraphs that's relevant to today's discussion, it states:

"At 5:45 pm on that sessional day"—being the second sessional day we're in committee of the whole—"those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto and report the bill to the House."

The Chair of the committee of the whole House ruled appropriately that in fact he was carrying out the orders of the House that had been duly debated and duly voted on in this House and voted in the affirmative by the majority of the people in this House.

Mr Speaker, I ask that you follow the wishes of the majority in the House, as directed by the time allocation motion that was passed earlier in the year. Let's get on with the business of the House and support the Chair of the committee of the whole House.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order? I ask the member for Ottawa West to carefully consider. I have heard one from each party, and normally it's the House leaders. The House leader for the Conservatives has some additional information.

Mr Eves: Mr Speaker, on a new point of order.

Interjections.

Mr Eves: Just a minute. My point of order is very simple, Mr Speaker. We are no longer in committee of the whole House. We are now in the Legislature, and I would ask you, sir, to recognize the clock, and I would submit to you that under standing order 9(a), seeing as how we are not sitting now in committee of the whole House, you have no alternative but to adjourn this House until tomorrow.

The Speaker: It's very clear. The member may have forgotten, but there was a challenge to the Chair, and that challenge—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I implore members. This is a difficult situation. You do not make it easier by simply yelling at one another.

I would ask the member to consider that the reason I am here is because there was a challenge to the Chair. I am listening to the points of order as to why or why not the decision of the Chair should be upheld.

The member for Ottawa West.

Mr Chiarelli: Thank you, Mr Speaker; I will be very brief. I just want to bring to your attention one of the very basic rules we work under in this place, and that is standing order 1(b). I just want to bring two things to your attention in this particular section:

"In all contingencies not provided for in the standing orders the question shall be decided by the Speaker or Chair, and in making the ruling the Speaker or Chair shall base the decision on the usages and precedents of the Legislature and parliamentary tradition."

I would only ask one thing, Mr Speaker, that when you make your ruling you comply with standing order 1(b) and indicate the standing order under which you are making your decision that would enable it or, secondly, the usage and precedent of the Legislature or parliamentary tradition on which you rely. I would ask you to do that under standing order 1(b), sir.

The Speaker: I appreciate the contributions. The leader of the third party has an additional point of order.

Mr Harris: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. On the second point that was raised by my House leader, I would like to ask you to consider that the reason why you are in the chair is really irrelevant. The fact of the matter is, you are in the chair.

Interjections.

Mr Harris: I'm sorry, but I believe, with respect to the standing orders, the fact of the matter is that you are in the chair and it is past 6 of the clock. I would suggest to you, Mr Speaker, that it would be most appropriate that we continue receiving arguments on this point, if you like, in the duly noted time that we should be, namely, starting tomorrow, when we come back into session. You are in the chair, we are not in committee of the whole, we are not in the middle of a vote and it is past 6 of the clock. The matter of the challenge to the Chair can be considered, as it should be, tomorrow.

The Speaker: To the leader of the third party, I think we should be very clear about this. The Chair of the committee made a ruling. That ruling was challenged, and as is

our procedure, the Speaker has been summoned to deal with the challenge.

I have heard the arguments put forward by the honourable House leader of the opposition and by the honourable House leader for the third party and the honourable House leader for the government, as well as the contribution by the member for Ottawa West, whose contributions in total I certainly appreciate.

I will say to you very briefly that this is not a simple matter. I would appreciate a few moments to reflect on it. The House will stand in recess for 10 minutes, at which time I shall return and render a decision.

The House recessed at 1841 and resumed at 1851.

The Speaker: Let me first thank the members for Parry Sound, Bruce, Ottawa West, Nipissing and the government House leader for bringing this matter to my attention.

Let me first deal with the matter of the timing of this decision. It's absolutely important that this ruling be given now, because it results from a point raised in committee of the whole and the essence of the matter before us is one of timing. Members must be aware that whenever the House passes a motion of time allocation, that motion in effect is the one that dictates the way in which a bill will be considered at the various stages of the legislative process. The time allocation motion is in effect a standing order on its own merits as regards the piece of legislation to which it is attached. In the matter at hand, therefore, I have no choice but to abide by the terms of that special order.

I will take the time to read the pertinent section, to quote from the special order: "At 5:45 pm on that sessional day, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto and report the bill to the House. Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put, the members called in once and all deferred divisions taken in succession."

The Chair has to be guided by the fact that this is, firstly, the second of the two sessional days that were allocated, and secondly, that at 5:45 pm on that sessional day, ie, today, the Chair had no choice but to call forward the vote and to proceed in order until the item had been dispensed with. Indeed, that's what the Chair was in the process of doing. I sustained the decision of the Chair, and indeed, with your indulgence, I would commend the member on the way in which he conducted the business of the House. I watched it from my office and felt that he did a superb job. This House should return to committee of the whole.

Mr Eves: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Point of order?

Mr Eves: I believe that I made another point of order and I make it again. The mace is on the table, sir. The House is in session, sir. With all due respect, under standing order 9(a), I ask you to recognize the clock, it being past 6 of the clock. With all due respect, Mr Speaker, I think the reason why the House is in session is totally irrelevant. The fact of the matter is that the mace is on the

table, you're in the chair and it's past 6 of the clock. Under standing order 9(a), with all due respect, you have no alternative but to adjourn the House.

The Speaker: I understand the member for Parry Sound indeed, and I appreciate that he's a member who always follows the rules very closely. I know he appreciates that the reason the mace is on the table and I'm here is because there was a challenge of the Chair's ruling. I have dealt with that challenge. This House now returns to committee.

House in committee of the whole.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order, please. We now proceed. Mr Offer's amendment to section 19 is out of order, and we therefore proceed with Mrs—

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order. Order, please.

Proceeding with Mrs Witmer's amendment to section 19, subsections 19(1), 41(1) to (1.3) of the Act.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: All those in favour of Mrs Witmer's amendment to section 19 please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Moving on to section 20, Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 20 will go unamended.

All those in favour of section 20 please say "aye,"

All those opposed to section 20 please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

On to section 21. We have a similar situation: Mr Offer's motion is out of order, therefore section 21 stands unamended.

All those in favour of section 21 please say "aye."

All those opposed to section 21 please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The motion carries.

Similar situation with section 22: Mr Offer's motion is out of order, therefore section 22 stands unamended.

All those in favour of section 22 please say "aye."

All those opposed to section 22 please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 23: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. We will therefore deal with Mrs Witmer's amendment to subsection 23(3), 45(8) of the Act.

All those in favour of Mrs Witmer's amendment please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The vote will be stacked.

Section 24, likewise: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 24 stands unamended.

All those in favour of section 24 please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

The vote will be stacked.

1900

Section 25 is a similar situation. Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 25 stands unamended.

All those in favour of section 25 please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. The vote will be stacked.

Section 26: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. We will therefore deal with Mrs Witmer's amendment, section 26.1.

All those in favour of Mrs Witmer's amendment please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. The vote will be stacked.

Shall section 26 carry? Carried.

We are now dealing with section 27. Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 27 will stand without amendment.

All those in favour of section 27 please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. The vote will be stacked.

We now move on to section 28, a similar situation: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 28 stands unamended.

Those in favour of section 28 please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. The vote will be stacked.

Section 29, similar situation: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order.

All those in favour of section 29 please say "aye." All those—

Mr Offer: On a point of order—

The Second Deputy Chair: Please allow me to finish this.

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Mr Offer: Mr Chair, on a point of order.

The Second Deputy Chair: The vote will be stacked. The honourable member for Mississauga North on a point of order.

Mr Offer: Thank you very much, Mr Chair. It is patently obvious to myself and to my caucus that the government, through its time allocation/closure motion, has closed down this House. They have absolutely no intention to deal with the concerns we have raised, to deal with the concerns that many people throughout this province have raised with respect to this piece of legislation. There is absolutely no question that what they are going through now is a charade. They are going through a stage-managed process, and I will be leaving and not taking part in this type of stage-managed process which will affect the future of this province.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member for Parry Sound on a point of order.

Mr Eves: On the point of order raised by the honourable member, I have always been taught to respect the Chair and the Speaker, but I can tell you unequivocally—and I'm choosing my words very carefully, Mr Chair—that the second ruling the Speaker made while the Legislature was in session, while the mace was on the table, I think is a great affront to my privileges as a member, to the parliamentary and democracy process. There is no doubt that this House was in session, the mace was on the table, and standing order 9(a)—I don't care why he was here, I don't care if he came in to catch a pigeon flying around in the middle of the chamber. The reality is—

The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Mr Eves: —that the Legislature was in session, and under standing order 9(a) he had no alternative, in my humble opinion, under the standing orders that these members create, not that he creates—

The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Mr Eves: —and the House is adjourned as far as I'm concerned. It is a joke.

Interjections.

Mr Eves: Get ready for tomorrow, sweetheart.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are proceeding with section 30. Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore we will vote on section 30 unamended.

Shall section 30 carry? Carried.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order. We will now deal—order. We will now deal with section 31. Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 31 stands unamended.

Shall section 31 carry? Carried.

Similar situation with section 32, with Mr Offer's first amendment: It is out of order. However, we have several other amendments which are in order. Section 32, Mr Offer has moved an amendment to 73.1(2) of the act.

Shall Mr Offer's amendment carry? No, the motion is defeated.

Mrs Witmer has an amendment to section 32, 73.1(4) of the act. Shall Mrs Witmer's amendment carry? The amendment is lost.

Mrs Witmer has another amendment to section 32, 73 of the act. Shall Mrs Witmer's amendment carry? No, the amendment is defeated.

Mrs Witmer, section 32, 73.1(2). Shall Mrs Witmer's amendment carry? No, the amendment is lost.

Section 32, 73.3 of the act, Mrs Witmer's amendment. Shall Mrs Witmer's amendment carry? The amendment is lost.

Section 32.1: Mrs Witmer's amendment is out of order.

Shall section 32 stand as part of the bill? Agreed? Agreed. Section 32 is carried.

Mr Offer's amendment to section 33 is out of order, therefore section 33 will be voted on unamended.

Shall section 33 carry as part of the act? Agreed? Agreed. The motion's carried.

Section 34: Shall section 34 carry? Agreed? Agreed.

Section 35 does have amendments. Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 35 stands unamended. Shall section 35 carry? Agreed? Agreed.

Section 36: Likewise, Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 36 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed. Carried.

Section 37: Shall section 37 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed.

Section 38: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 38 stands unamended. Shall section 38 carry? Agreed? Agreed. Carried.

Likewise for section 39: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 39 carry? Carried. Agreed.

Likewise for section 40: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 40 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed. Section carried.

Section 41: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 41 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed.

Section 42: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order, therefore section 42 is unamended. Shall section 42 carry? Agreed? Agreed. Section 42 carries.

Likewise for section 43: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 43 carry? Agreed? Agreed.

Section 44: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 44 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed. Section 44 carries.

Section 45: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 45 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed. Motion carries.

Section 46: Likewise, Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 46 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed. The section carries.

Section 47: Mr Offer's amendment is out of order. Shall section 47 carry unamended? Agreed? Agreed. Section 47 carries.

Shall section 48 carry? Agreed? Agreed.

Similarly for section 49: Shall section 49 carry? Agreed? Agreed.

Section 50 has some amendments. Mr Offer's amendment to section 50 is (3). Shall Mr Offer's amendment carry? No? The motion is lost.

Mrs Witmer's amendment to subsection 50(3): Shall Mrs Witmer's amendment carry? No? The amendment is lost.

Shall section 50 carry unamended? Agreed. Carried.

Shall sections 51 to 63, inclusive, carry as amended? Agreed.

Similarly, section 64: Mrs Witmer does have an amendment to section 64.1. This is an addition to that section, therefore shall 64 carry as unamended? Agreed. The motion carries.

Mrs Witmer's amendment to 64.1 is adding a new section. Shall Mrs Witmer's amendment to 64 carry? No? The amendment is lost.

We have a number of votes to be taken. We will now call in the members. There is a 15-minute time limit for the bells. Call in the members.

The division bells rang from 1913 to 1928.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order, please. Could all members please take their seats. We are now dealing with the amendments to Bill 40 and the different sections. We will now vote on section 2.

All those in favour of section 2 standing as part of Bill 40 please rise and remain standing until you have been enumerated or counted by the table.

All those opposed to section 2 please rise and remain standing.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller): The ayes are 60, the nays are 1.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I declare section 2 of Bill 40 carried.

We will now deal with section 3. All those in favour of section 3 please rise and remain standing. The same vote? Agreed.

Section 3 carries.

Section 4, amendment by Mr Offer: All those in favour of Mr Offer's amendment. Same vote reversed? Agreed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 1; the nays are 60.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. Mr Offer's amendment is defeated.

Mrs Witmer has an amendment to section 4, subsection 4(2). Same vote? Agreed.

I declare Mrs Witmer's amendment defeated.

Mr Offer's amendment to section 4: Same vote? Same vote.

I declare Mr Offer's amendment defeated.

Shall section 4 of Bill 40 stand as unamended, without amendments? Same vote reversed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1.

The Second Deputy Chair: Section 4 carries. The ayes are 60, the nays are 1.

Section 5, Mr Offer's amendment to section 5: Same vote in reverse? Agreed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. Mr Offer's amendment to section 5 is defeated.

Shall section 5 stand without amendments as part of the act? Agreed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1.

The Second Deputy Chair: Section 5: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I declare section 5 carried.

We now move to section 6, as unamended. Shall section 6 of Bill 40 carry? Same vote? Same vote.

I declare section 6 carried.

Section 7 does have some amendments. Mr Offer's amendment to section 7: Do we have consensus for the same vote in reverse? Agreed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. I declare Mr Offer's amendment defeated.

Mr Mackenzie's amendment to section 7: Shall Mr Mackenzie's amendment carry? Same vote reversed? Agreed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I declare Mr Mackenzie's amendment to section 7 carried.

Mr Offer's amendment to section 7: Shall the same vote in reverse carry? Agreed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. I declare Mr Offer's amendment defeated.

Mr Offer has another amendment. Would it be agreeable to have the same vote? Agreed.

I declare Mr Offer's amendment to section 7 defeated.

Mrs Witmer has an amendment to section 7. Is it agreed that the same vote carry? Agreed.

Mrs Witmer's amendment is therefore defeated.

Shall section 7 carry, as amended? Same vote in reverse.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I declare section 7 carried, as amended.

Section 8: We have amendments to section 8. Mr Offer's amendment to section 8: Is it the pleasure of the House that the vote carry in reverse? Agreed.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. I declare Mr Offer's amendment to section 8 defeated.

Further amendment to section 8, Mr Offer: Is it the pleasure of the House that the same vote carry? Agreed.

I declare Mr Offer's amendment to section 8 defeated.

Further amendment by Mr Offer: Is it the pleasure of the House that we continue with the same vote? Agreed.

I declare Mr Offer's amendment defeated.

Mrs Witmer has an amendment to section 8. Is it the pleasure of the House that the same vote carry for Mrs Witmer's amendment? Agreed.

I declare Mrs Witmer's amendment defeated.

We have a final amendment by Mr Offer to section 8. Is it the pleasure of the House that we continue with the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare Mr Offer's amendment defeated.

Shall section 8 of Bill 40 carry without amendments? Is it the pleasure of the House that we have the same vote in reverse? Agreed.

The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I therefore declare section 8 carried.

Section 9 does not have any amendments. Is it the pleasure of the House that we have the same vote for section 9? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 9 of Bill 40 carried without amendments.

We have an amendment to section 10. Mr Offer has moved an amendment to section 10. Is it the pleasure of the House that the same vote carry in reverse? Agreed.

The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. I declare Mr Offer's amendment defeated.

Mr Offer has a further amendment to section 10. Is it the pleasure of the House that the same vote apply? Agreed.

I therefore declare Mr Offer's second amendment to section 10 defeated.

Shall section 10 carry without amendments? Would it be the pleasure of the House that we have the same vote in reverse? Agreed.

The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I therefore declare section 10 of the bill carried.

We now move to section 11. Section 11 does not have any amendments. Is it the pleasure of the House that the same vote carry for section 11? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 11 of Bill 40 carried without amendments.

Section 12 has one amendment by Mrs Witmer. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Witmer's amendment carry?

Interjections: No.

The Second Deputy Chair: Should it therefore be the same vote in reverse? Agreed.

The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. I therefore declare Mrs Witmer's amendment defeated.

Shall section 12 of Bill 40 carry without amendments? Same vote in reverse.

The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I therefore declare section 12 of Bill 40 carried without amendments.

Section 13 had an amendment from Mr Offer which was out of order. Therefore we will deal with section 13 as unamended. Is it the pleasure of the House that section 13 carry with the same vote count? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 13 of Bill 40 carried without amendments.

Section 14 of the bill stands unamended. Shall section 14 of the bill carry with the same vote? Agreed.

Therefore, I declare section 14 carried.

Similarly, is it the pleasure of the House that we proceed with the same vote on section 15? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 15 carried.

Section 16 of the bill: Similarly, is it the pleasure of the House that we carry with the same vote? Agreed.

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I therefore declare section 16 of Bill 40 carried.

Likewise for section 17, is it the pleasure of the House that we proceed with the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 17 of Bill 40 carried.

Section 18 of Bill 40 stands unamended. Is it the pleasure of the House that we proceed with the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 18 of Bill 40 carried.

Section 19 has an amendment by Mrs Witmer. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Witmer's amendment carry? Same vote reversed? Agreed.

The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. Therefore, I declare Mrs Witmer's amendment to subsection 19(1) defeated.

Shall section 19 carry without amendments? Is it the pleasure of the House that we have the same vote in reverse? Agreed.

The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. Therefore, I declare section 19 of Bill 40 carried without amendments.

Section 20 had one amendment which was out of order. Therefore, is it the pleasure of the House that section 20 carry unamended with the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 20 of the bill carried.

We now move on to section 22. We did have an amendment which was out of order. Therefore, shall section 22 carry without amendment? Do we agree to have the same vote? Agreed.

Therefore I declare section 22 of the bill carried.

Section 23 has an amendment from Mrs Witmer. Is it the pleasure of the House that we proceed with the same vote in reverse for Mrs Witmer's amendment? Agreed.

The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. Therefore I declare Mrs Witmer's amendment defeated.

Shall section 23 of Bill 40 carry without amendment? Is it the pleasure of the House that we proceed with the same vote in reverse? Agreed.

The ayes are 60, the nays are 1. I therefore declare section 23 of the bill carried without amendment.

Section 24 had one amendment which was out of order. Therefore, shall section 24 carry unamended? Agreed to the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 24 carried.

Section 25, similarly an out-of-order amendment. Shall section 25 carry without amendment with the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 25 of Bill 40 carried.

Section 26 does have an amendment which is in order. It's from Mrs Witmer. Is it the pleasure of the House that

we proceed with Mrs Witmer's amendment with the same vote in reverse? Agreed.

The ayes are 1, the nays are 60. Therefore I declare Mrs Witmer's amendment to section 26 defeated.

Shall section 26 carry—it has already been voted on, I'm sorry.

We are now dealing with section 27, which had one amendment from Mr Offer which was out of order. Is it the pleasure of the House that section 27 carry without amendment? Is it agreeable to have the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 27 of the bill carried.

Section 28: One out-of-order amendment from Mr Offer. Is it the pleasure of the House that section 28 carry without amendments with the same vote? Agreed.

Therefore I declare section 28 of the bill carried.

Likewise for section 29: Is it the pleasure of the House that we proceed with the same vote? Agreed.

I therefore declare section 29 of the bill carried.

I have now reached the end of the questions. The remainder of the bill has been dealt with. Is it the pleasure of the House that we proceed with Bill 40 as amended? Agreed.

Shall the bill be reported as amended? Agreed.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Chair, I move that the committee rise and report.

The Second Deputy Chair: The government House leader has moved that the committee rise and report.

The committee of the whole House begs to report one bill with certain amendments and asks for leave to sit again. Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): It being well past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 29, at 10 o'clock of the morning.

The House adjourned at 1947.

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Jeudi 29 octobre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 29 October 1992

The House met at 1002.

Prayers.

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: You must know that it's the government's commitment and it's obliged to have a quorum in the House at all times. I do not believe there's a quorum present this morning.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): I'll check with the table.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller): A quorum is not present.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

COURT SYSTEM

Mr Harnick moved resolution number 24:

That, in the opinion of this House,

(1) Recognizing that the Attorney General is a member of the executive council; and is also a member of a political party who, as such, is subject to partisan political influences; and recognizing that it is desirable to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest; and

(2) Recognizing that the Attorney General is responsible for the financing and administration of the courts; and recognizing the importance of the independence of the judiciary; and

(3) Recognizing that the Attorney General is responsible for the decision-making process of the prosecutorial system; and recognizing the importance of the independence of the prosecution service,

The government of Ontario should transfer the responsibility for financing and the administration of the courts to the judiciary and create by statute the position of an independent director of public prosecutions.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Harnick moves private member's notice of motion number 24. Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i) the honourable member has 10 minutes for this presentation.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): This resolution is a resolution that I think is of some significance to the administration of justice in this province, and that is precisely why I have moved the resolution.

May I deal first with the idea of the creation of a director of public prosecutions by statute? The rule in Ontario at present is that the independence of the Attorney General in making prosecutorial decisions has been accepted by constitutional convention, but changes in society have made it increasingly difficult to demonstrate that independence.

Part of the problem is the problem of the Attorney General's accountability to this place. That accountability is what I describe as *ex post facto* accountability. The Attorney General is only accountable to the Legislature after

a decision not to prosecute has been made or after a prosecution has been completed, because we all know the custom is that the Attorney General will not comment on a case when it's before the courts.

It's become increasingly difficult for the public to escape the conclusion that partisan political considerations aimed at furthering the interests of the government are not involved in decisions being made by the Attorney General. Let me be clear. I am not alleging this, but with every passing day it is becoming a possible conclusion, almost a probable conclusion, that can be reached by the public.

I point out the issue of the Brian Rapson prosecution, where the Attorney General was in the position of preferring an indictment. I point out the Wade Lawson decision, where there was a decision not to appeal an acquittal but where the jury system was immediately called into suspicion by the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Wade Lawson matter. It wasn't something that happened independently. It was a clash of the Attorney General's responsibility for legal policy versus his responsibility as a prosecutor.

I think there are too many conflicts right now in terms of the Attorney General's position vis-à-vis his prosecutorial duties. As minister of justice he's responsible for legal policy, but as the Attorney General he has to prosecute, and he has to prosecute in a neutral way to get at the truth of any particular matter. Those functions may well be in conflict: the function of dealing with legal policy versus prosecutorial neutrality.

The same minister, the Attorney General, is in charge of prosecuting. He's also in charge of delivering the legal aid system. There's a basic conflict in that. The Attorney General, as chief prosecutor, also has a say in choosing judges and deciding on their remuneration. The conflicts are obvious and the conflicts have to be eliminated.

The Ontario Law Reform Commission states that its primary concern is the independence of the prosecution service from potential pressure, and therefore it believes, and I agree with it, that a director of public prosecution, by statute, should be created.

The rationale for that is I think quite obvious. The rationale offered for the creation of an office of the director of public prosecutions is that a tenured professional with no political ties would be better able to disregard partisan political considerations when making decisions to prosecute. That is fundamental.

Such an office would increase the actual and perceived independence of the crown prosecution service. Moreover, it would remove the conflicts arising from the fact that the Attorney General and minister of justice—they are one and the same—acts both as legal adviser and prosecutor for the government.

I believe the Attorney General would continue to have the authority to give instructions to the director of public prosecutions in the form of general guidelines for the

handling of cases, as well as specific directives for the handling of individual cases. Any guidelines or directives that would be issued by the Attorney General would be in writing, published and tabled in this Legislature.

The very concept I am outlining today is a concept that attempts to strike a balance in the need for prosecutorial independence but recognizing at the same time the involvement of the Attorney General as being the person most responsible and continuing to be that person. So I think the idea that this person, this director of public prosecutions, would usurp the function of the Attorney General is not part of what I'm saying.

1010

Finally, dealing with this aspect, the Ontario Law Reform Commission recommended that the budget for the office of the director of public prosecutions be included within the budget of the Attorney General, but once the funds have been allocated by the Attorney General to the prosecution service, the director should have authority to allocate those funds within the prosecution service. Such an arrangement would again stress the independence of the director of public prosecutions.

The other aspect of my resolution is dealing with judicial independence and who in fact should be running the court system. I don't mean to imply that any judge, as an individual, is not independent in terms of the decisions he must make. However, we have a problem with the judiciary as a collective, because the Attorney General controls the purse strings; because of that, we have basic conflict.

Should your opponent, meaning the Attorney General, control the court system? Should your opponent decide the balance between civil case resources and criminal case resources? Should your opponent direct and hire and fire the staff of the courts in which you as a litigant might be fighting him? Should your cases be decided by judges who are forced increasingly into an economic and administrative dependence on your opponent? If the province's chief litigant controls the allocation of funds, how can it be said that the administration of justice is independent of the executive branch of government?

What I say is that the Attorney General should give the function of controlling how the courts work to the very people who should be operating the courts, and that's the judges. The people who work within the court system should be working under the direction of the judges. They shouldn't be working under the direction of the Attorney General, and then in a subordinate or tangential way, operate under the control of judges. It just doesn't work. I would ask this Legislature to reflect on that.

I further point out that sittings of the court, the assignment of judges to sittings, the assignment of cases to individual judges, sitting schedules, the makeup of trial lists and courtroom assignments should be controlled by the court process. They should not be controlled by the major litigant before the courts, and that's the Attorney General. I think the court system fails if we give the impression that the judicial system does not control its own process.

Again, we're looking for a balance. We're striking a balance. No one is saying that the courts get carte blanche to spend whatever money they want. They've got to be

accountable to this Legislature, just as other functions of this Legislature are accountable to it: the Ombudsman, the privacy commissioner. They all have independence. They are all accountable to this Legislature for the money they spend. The court system would be no different.

Accordingly, I would be very interested to hear the remarks of my friends, particularly my friends opposite, on what I believe is an important question.

Mr David Winninger (London South): I'm pleased to join in this debate today. The member puts forward an interesting resolution with some history to it. I should indicate that back in 1975 this Ministry of the Attorney General released a discussion paper proposing that control over most staff in the court system's budget should be transferred to the judiciary, who would be accountable directly to the Legislature.

That paper was not implemented by the Conservative government of the day, in which Mr Roy McMurtry became the Attorney General. I think it would be fair to characterize the response to that paper at the time, in 1975, as somewhat lukewarm.

Five years later, in 1980, while the Conservative government was still in power, the Deschenes report, *Maîtres chez eux: Masters in Their Own House*, was proposed with largely the same approach. That report was written by a Quebec judge for the Canadian Judicial Council, which is made up of the federally appointed chief justices from across Canada.

The 1987 report, *Report of the Ontario Courts Inquiry*, conducted by Mr Justice Zuber, popularly known as the Zuber report, proposed a system of partnership in management of the courts, with judges, the government, lawyers and the public functioning as a sort of policy board for the court system, but leaving certain essential elements in the exclusive control of the judiciary and others in the hands of government.

In 1989 the previous government, the Liberal government, accepted this approach and created, by amendments to the Courts of Justice Act, regional courts management advisory committees and the Ontario courts management advisory committee, these committees being made up of equal numbers of representatives of the judiciary, the legal bar, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the public.

Recently, as the member has noted, in 1991 the Joint Committee on Court Reform, an umbrella group of lawyers' organizations formed to respond to the court reform initiatives of the previous government, struck a special sub-committee to prepare a report to the Attorney General on this very topic. It states, among other things, that a method of providing accountability for the expenditure of public funds in the courts would have to be devised if responsibility were transferred to the judiciary, but it does not develop the concept.

There are many questions on the issue of the transfer of management to the judiciary which remain, in effect, unanswered.

First of all, is there any actual conflict between the Attorney General's responsibility for court administration, as the member indicates, and the Attorney General's responsibility for the conduct of prosecution in government civil cases?

Secondly, does the public perceive any apparent conflict of interest between these roles as a problem?

Thirdly, is there another, perhaps more effective or less drastic, way of dealing with any actual or apparent conflict of interest?

And certainly, apart from conflict-of-interest concerns, are there measures that could be taken to enhance judicial involvement in the administration of the courts, short of an outright transfer of all responsibility?

What organizational structure is most likely to bring about efficient management of the court system and yet secure the essential elements of judicial independence?

What mechanism best secures accountability to the public for the expenditure of public funds on the court system, and what approach, moreover, will best ensure public confidence in the justice system?

Until these fundamental questions are answered, any change to the responsibility for the administration of the courts should be delayed. Further study needs to be done, I would submit, to determine the answers to the questions that I've just posed and to develop options for consideration by all parties.

1020

Certainly, this government recognizes judicial independence as a fundamental and constitutional principle of the Ontario justice system. It cannot be infringed upon. The judiciary is assigned, as you may know, Mr Speaker, the right under section 93 of the Courts of Justice Act to determine court sittings and assign judges at the present time.

As far as the proposal to create a director of public prosecutions is concerned, in 1989 the royal commission on the prosecution of Donald Marshall recommended the establishment of a director of public prosecutions in Nova Scotia. That proposal has now been implemented.

I admit to the member that there is a strong philosophical appeal in the administration of the criminal justice system by the judiciary or by a director of public prosecutions. However, such a proposal will require extensive policy work and fundamental legislative changes following a very wide consultation with all of our partners in the justice system.

Under the member's proposal, the role of the Attorney General would change fundamentally. While the director of public prosecutions would supervise prosecutions, there would also have to be a vehicle for accountability to the public through the Attorney General.

Despite these apparent and very actual difficulties, this government is committed to looking at the feasibility of such a system, and looking at the feasibility of such a system is certainly part of this government's overall review of how effectively our justice system operates. I'll have more to say about some of our initiatives in this regard as the debate unfolds.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): First of all, I want to thank the member for Willowdale for introducing this particular resolution. In fact, I want to compliment him on being a superb member of the bar and a credit to the justice system in the province. I think we're fortunate to have him in this Legislature.

I do want to say, however, that the justice system is the glue and the fabric that holds our democratic system and our society together. I think it requires significant and substantive leadership. There are a number of pillars of leadership or certain groups that we look to for leadership in the justice system. We have the bar, if not the law society, which has been giving over the last couple of years superb leadership in terms of administration of justice. There are leaders from the bar who have been lobbying and advocating significant changes to improve the system in a very responsible manner, and I think they're having a significant effect.

Another pillar of the leadership required for the justice system is, of course, the judiciary. With one hand tied behind their backs, they are giving leadership in a way that they haven't in the past. I'm referring to people such as Justice Sopinka.

Another pillar of leadership in the justice system and for the administration of justice is the legal scholars and the various law reform commissions. They have done a superb job in terms of bringing issues to the fore and trying to bring significant change to the system, change which is long overdue.

Of course we have another pillar of our system of justice, which is the law enforcement officers and organizations across the country and the province. Once again, I think they are doing a superb job.

We come to the fifth pillar of leadership, and unfortunately in the province of Ontario it simply is not there, and that's the leadership of government, the leadership of the Ministry of the Attorney General and leadership of the justice bureaucracy here at Queen's Park and in the Ontario government.

If we do not have leadership from all those pillars, the system will fail. The system is now failing us because of the inertia and inaction of governments—the Tory government before the Liberal government, the NDP government now—and we must look at significant change from government, legislative change. That's why I compliment the member for Willowdale for bringing this resolution forward.

We have now an Attorney General who is a minister of reaction, reacting to Askov, reacting to legal aid funding crises, reacting to problems in his ministry, such as the Mary Hogan affair. There is inertia. There have been precious few initiatives brought forward by this Attorney General.

There are a number of initiatives which he has brought forward. They are ad hoc and they are very medium range in terms of reform of the system.

We need significant change in the legal system in Ontario. The people look to this government for leadership in many ways. The judiciary is looking for it, the legal profession is looking for it, and it's not forthcoming. I think I would like to put partisan comments aside; I would like to come up with a consensus for action, and that's why I'm complimenting the member for Willowdale on his resolutions, which I do want to address with some particularity.

I'm going to deal first with the question of director of public prosecutions. First of all, the role of the Attorney General is fraught with conflict. When you look at the

various roles of the Attorney General—the Attorney General's relationship to this Legislature, the Attorney General's relationship to cabinet, the Attorney General's relationship with the crown prosecutor, the Attorney General's relationship with the courts and the administration of the courts and the Attorney General's relationship with the police—it is fraught with conflict. We see it day in and we see it day out, and I think it puts the Attorney General from time to time in a very untenable position, whoever that Attorney General may be.

In light of the wide range of duties and responsibilities of the Attorney General, the potential for conflict of interest is significant. In particular, there has to be concern that when the head of the prosecution service is also involved in the political process, the prosecution system could be subjected to political pressure. We have seen that time and time again in this Legislature.

Some recent Canadian cases, such as the Donald Marshall inquiry in Nova Scotia, the Manitoba ticketgate affair and the Patricia Starr inquiry in Ontario, have highlighted the need for an independent prosecution service.

Another potential conflict arises from the fact that the prosecutorial and policy branches of the justice system are combined in one ministry.

When we look at the need for reform, we only have to go back to 1990. The Law Reform Commission of Canada released a working paper entitled *Controlling Criminal Prosecutions: The Attorney General and the Crown Prosecutor*.

It should be noted at this time that Nova Scotia is the only jurisdiction in Canada with a director of public prosecutions that is a statutory position. Other Canadian jurisdictions have officers with similar titles, but these positions are filled by order-in-council appointments. In Ontario, for example, there is a director of criminal prosecutions, but that is an order-in-council appointment. The role of the director is to conduct special prosecutions, handle direct indictments and advise the Attorney General on cases affecting the public interest.

The difference between a position that is created by statute, as suggested in this resolution, and the one that is filled by an order-in-council appointment is that the decisions of the order-in-council appointee will inevitably be subject to the view of cabinet; and that's a conflict. On the other hand, the decisions of a director of public prosecutions whose position is created by statute are also protected by that statute.

Let's look at some of the specific examples of potential conflict for an Attorney General. For example, the Supreme Court of Canada has held that the charter must be given a broad and liberal interpretation. The minister of justice, therefore, in carrying out the duty of certifying that legislation complies with the charter, should ensure that the legislation favours the protection of individual rights and should not approve legislation that restricts such rights. However, the minister of justice, acting as Attorney General, is responsible for prosecutions and would likely favour legislation that enhances law enforcement capabilities.

1030

There are a number of issues of potential conflict. I don't want to go into them all in detail, because time doesn't permit, but another example is the fact that the same minister is responsible for both prosecutions and the legal aid system. This situation means that the same law officer is, in effect, responsible for prosecutions and defence, since the Attorney General must allocate funds between the prosecution service and the legal aid plan, a large part of which is devoted to defending people charged with crimes.

Another example of conflict deals with the fact that the Attorney General appoints judges and negotiates their remuneration. There is at least a perception of conflict when the person who holds the position of chief prosecutor also hires the judges in the prosecutorial system.

Another potential conflict is that the agents of the Attorney General, the crown prosecutors, are sometimes called upon to investigate members of the justice department. This situation arose in the Manitoba ticket-fixing scandal. In that case, police and crown prosecutors, both under the jurisdiction of the provincial Attorney General, were required to investigate and prosecute persons, including two provincial court judges and one magistrate, who were part of the court system administered by the Attorney General's department. The judge who conducted a review of the handling of the case commented that the case demonstrated "a point at which internal conflict arises and independence of the prosecutorial role breaks down."

There are number of other areas of conflict that I won't go into. However, with these types of examples in mind, the law reform commission recommended that a new office, the office of director of public prosecutions, should be created. This office would be in charge of the crown prosecution service and would report directly to the Attorney General. The director of public prosecutions would not be a civil servant but would be a lawyer appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, chosen from a list of candidates recommended by an independent committee.

The rationale offered for the creation of an office of director of public prosecutions is that a tenured professional with no political ties would be better able to disregard partisan political considerations when making decisions to prosecute. We've seen the partisan nature of the Attorney General's office many times in this Legislature.

The recommendations of the law reform commission go on in some detail to deal with matters such as the term, the salary, removal and accountability. I therefore support the portion of the member's resolution dealing with this aspect of the administration of justice.

On the other issue, in terms of the administration of the courts, I want to deal with the recent report on Ontario court administration issued by the Joint Committee on Court Reform, which was formed in 1988 and represents the views of the Canadian Bar Association—Ontario, the Advocates' Society, the County of York Law Association, the Criminal Lawyers Association and includes representatives from the Law Society of Upper Canada. I want to just refer to some selected statements from that report, because essentially I endorse the recommendations of that report

and therefore support the resolution of the member for Willowdale on this particular point.

In referring to some of the comments, I want to point out that this group said it soon became apparent that there was recognition by all participants of the existence of serious problems and the common commitment and desire to address these problems in a constructive fashion. I think the parliamentary assistant for the Ministry of the Attorney General is being overly partisan and too defensive when he looks at constructive suggestions that are coming from a respected member of the bar, the member for Willowdale, coming from the Joint Committee on Court Reform, coming from the Law Reform Commission of Canada, and they choose to put them on the shelf and continue the inertia that exists in the system in Ontario.

I do not have time, because we are limited here, to go into all the bases of the recommendations for the Joint Committee on Court Reform, but essentially, this particular report supports the member's resolution, which I endorse.

The committee refers to some US models which have proven to be very successful. In particular, the federal courts in the United States are administered by the Administrative Office of the US courts, which is referred to as AOC. The federal judicial branch budget is developed by the AOC under the direction of the budget committee of the judicial conference, which is an all-judge committee, approved by the judicial conference and incorporated without change in the president's budget submitted to the US Congress. In fact, some states have provisions for the court's budget to go directly to the State Legislature. In the United States, attorneys general play no role in court administration.

So the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Court Reform, with respect to independent funding of the administration of justice in Ontario, is a good recommendation. I endorse the recommendation in principle. There obviously have to be some refinements in terms of the recommendation of this committee. There obviously have to be some refinements in terms of the member's resolution, how exactly the funding will go into place, but we are at a point where the system of justice in Ontario is almost in disrepute.

In fact, when you see how the judges are speaking out—I've received confidential calls in my office, as critic for the Ministry of the Attorney General, from judges complaining about the administration of justice. We are seeing them speaking out in speeches, issuing papers. We see the bar, the law society and groups such as the committee I have referred to saying that we need fundamental change. The society is moving in a geometric progression, and our ability to deal with the justice system here in this Legislature is still moving at an arithmetic progression level. We're not keeping up.

I think we should take the good advice of the bar, of the judiciary, of commissions, look at good examples which have been developed and adopt the principles that are embodied in this resolution.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I'm glad to enter into this debate, because as the former critic for the

Attorney General, one of the first discussions I had with the member for Willowdale was on this particular topic. I have felt there was a problem with regard to the role of the Attorney General in the province of Ontario.

I think, however, that we must take the suggestions of the member for Willowdale and have some pragmatism about whether or not they can be put into place. I think that, as a Legislature, we should explore the avenues to achieve the principles in the most practical way we possibly can.

Historically, we derive our justice system from Britain, so the role of the Attorney General has evolved over a long period of history, some 800 or 900 years. Originally, the Attorney General was appointed by the king, the crown, to represent his interests in the courts. At a later time—I think it was around 1400 or 1500—the king required that the Attorney General be a member of the House of Commons in Britain. As we progress through history and Canada started to be inhabited, the British governors appointed representatives whom they called attorneys general here in the province of Ontario.

1040

I don't know whether many members are aware that there are certain cabinet ministers within Ontario who are mandatory under our Constitution. The Attorney General happens to be one of those members of the executive council required by section 63 of our Constitution. It includes the Attorney General, the secretary and registrar of the province, the Treasurer of the province, the commissioner of crown lands and the commissioner of agriculture and public works.

So you have not only a problem in dealing with the changing role of the Attorney General in terms of what we can do in this Legislature, we might have a constitutional problem in making a dramatic change with regard to the Attorney General's role.

His role has been defined to some degree in federal law under the Criminal Code of Canada, but most of his powers—and the most important part of his power has been his right to prosecute people in the province on behalf of the state—have been evolved through common law, or through tradition or practice or whatever one might say.

The Attorney General in Ontario has four or five different kinds of functions he undertakes, and therein lies the problem or the potential for conflict between the various roles he undertakes. As I mentioned earlier, perhaps his most important traditional role is to represent the crown, the province of Ontario, in the courtroom in prosecuting people who have harmed the state, ie, the criminals or people who have been charged with a criminal offence.

The Attorney General also defends or sues people in the name of the crown. In other words, the government of Ontario is a very large institution and, as a result, that large institution has to be represented in the courtroom both in terms of criminal matters but also in property matters: civil suits indeed.

Therein lies one of the first problems with regard to conflict. If you're in the court on one side or the other, if you are prosecuting an individual in terms of a crime or you are representing a plaintiff suing somebody or representing a

defendant, and if you're sitting in front of a person who's on your payroll, people might think the judge will favour the government as a result of the fact that it's paying the salary of the person sitting in judgement above. I don't think in practice that happens, but someone who has lost the case might think about that very fact.

Another very important function of the Attorney General now is the funding of the legal aid plan. The legal aid plan provides many people with funds who are unable to afford to defend themselves in our court against the Attorney General. But what happens in the situation where the Attorney General is put in a period of restraint, which most people are in the public service, and says to the legal aid plan, "It cost \$70 million last year and we're going to have to cut that back to \$65 million"?

One might argue that what he is doing, or what the potential conflict might be in the minds of the people, is that the Attorney General wants to win more cases in the court so he's cutting down the resources of the people who are trying to meet him in court or argue against his case in court. There's a problem there.

My colleagues have mentioned the problem with regard to the administration of the courts, and we of course deal with nitty-gritty things like how much judges are paid. I can remember two or three years ago when the former Liberal government faced this problem with provincial court judges, as they then were, who had not had a settlement with regard to pay increases and benefits or in being successful in talking with the Attorney General of this province for two or three years. The Attorney General of this province, trying to establish some distance between his ministry and the independent judiciary, set up a committee called the Henderson committee under Gordon Henderson, a very, very knowledgeable and probably one of the most eminent counsels in Ontario and in Canada, and he comes from the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Mr Winninger: Is he a Conservative?

Mr Sterling: I'm not sure what Mr Henderson is, but he was appointed by a Liberal government.

Interjection.

Mr Sterling: I was asked about his politics.

At any rate, Mr Henderson worked with a group of people and came forward with recommendations. Those recommendations were ignored for three years, and it was only after pushing by myself and by some other members of the Legislature pushing the Attorney General that a solution was reached. Therefore there was the appearance between the Attorney General and the judges that he was in a fight with them, and here are the people whom they are meeting in court and there shouldn't really be conflict between the people who are deciding and the people who are being represented on one side of the court or the other.

Then there's a problem we have presently with the Attorney General, who, as I indicated, under our Constitution and under our legislation in Ontario, is a member of cabinet. Mr Speaker, you may know that I had the privilege of serving in cabinet for a period of four or five years, from 1981 to 1985. During that period of time, I must admit, there were occasions when I, as a lawyer, felt un-

comfortable about the discussion that was taking place around the cabinet table—not that there was any intent or malintent about that discussion, but there were times when I wondered whether or not the discussion should be taking place at all, whether or not political and judicial interests were being intermingled and whether or not it was appropriate for the Attorney General of the province to be in the same room where that discussion was taking place.

I like the British system that has now been set up and I'd like to say, in Britain the Attorney General is an elected member. The Attorney General is appointed, I believe by the government of the day, and is normally a member of the same party. The Attorney General sits in the House of Commons in Britain every day and is responsible to the House of Commons, but he is not a member of the political cabinet. He can consult the cabinet and ask them questions, but he never takes political direction from the cabinet in Britain. Therefore you have an Attorney General who is in all regards, or very much more than our Attorney General, not a political character as such in terms of the cabinet.

I talked to the Attorney General from Britain, I think three or four years ago, and I was interested in the model which Britain has. I asked him how many staff he had, and his total staff was the grand sum of about 20 people. I would imagine that did not include, however, crown attorneys out in the counties around England and Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland. But the fact of the matter was that they have set up a model whereby they have an Attorney General but he is separate and apart.

Under our system, we had back from 1971 to 1985 a character, or a cabinet minister, if you want to call him that, called the Provincial Secretary for Justice. Actually, I served in that role for about a year and a half, from 1981 to 1982 or 1983.

I proposed at that point in time that perhaps it would be more appropriate within the government structure to transfer from the Attorney General certain parts of those functions which I mentioned before. Legal aid perhaps should be over to a Provincial Secretary for Justice. You could transfer in fact just about all of the functions, save and except the prosecutorial role and maybe a legislative role as well, because I don't think a legislative role is as political or whatever.

1050

You and our future governments might also consider the option of in fact following the British model and saying that the Attorney General shall not be a member of cabinet and that a secretary for justice shall take up all of those other roles, other than the prosecution or the defence of the crown in civil suits or whatever.

I agree with the thrust of my colleague's resolution and I will vote for the resolution. However, I am concerned about setting up another body which is not directly accountable to the government. I am very much concerned with the bodies which we have already which claim to be responsible to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We have had difficulty in getting accountability back to the Legislative Assembly for those independent bodies.

I think it can be done through some kind of compromise, perhaps a more pragmatic and practical approach which I have possibly put forward in terms of splitting the role of the Attorney General between two ministries. Whether or not you want to remove the Attorney General from the cabinet is another consideration one might make, or in fact the Attorney General might want to remove himself from some but not all discussions of cabinet.

I want to leave the rest for my colleague to respond and add on to the end of his remarks.

I have enjoyed this. I have enjoyed a debate on an intellectual issue which I think should be carried forward more in this Legislative Assembly during private members' resolutions.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for London South.

Mr Winner: I appreciated the remarks of the member for Carleton. I think it's quite interesting that not only did he serve as justice critic in the last government, but I also believe the one time that he served as parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General; he can correct me if I'm wrong.

The Deputy Speaker: I made a mistake. I suddenly realized that you've already addressed the House and this is not your bill. Normally, the one who introduces the bill has two minutes to—unless I have unanimous consent to do so. Agreed? Agreed. The member for London South.

Mr Winner: Thank you.

So as parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General of the day—perhaps it was Roy McMurtry, I'm not sure—as I said earlier, his government sat on a recommendation that was made way back in 1975, 17 years ago. Now he comes before us as a born-again acolyte of judicial administration of the courts and the establishment of a director of public prosecutions.

He also talks about legal aid. He suggests that because of a perceived or actual conflict, the Attorney General might diminish the resources available to legal aid. I put it to members: The facts speak for themselves. In the last two years, due to the rising demand for legal aid, the Ministry of the Attorney General has contributed 50% more than in 1990. If anything, the costs of the legal aid system are going up, not down.

The member for Ottawa West suggests that this Attorney General is reactionary rather than proactive. Ian Scott was pretty good in his day, but I suggest that this province now is blessed with the most progressive Attorney General it's ever had. Even Chief Justice Lamer of the Supreme Court of Canada paid the Attorney General a compliment on the way he was able to deal with the result of the Askov decision so effectively and in such a timely fashion.

At the time of the Askov decision there were approximately 205,000 criminal charges outstanding in this province. Of these charges, 151,000, or 74%, were in jeopardy of delay. After injecting a not insubstantial amount of money into the justice system, \$39 million, including hiring and appointing additional judges, prosecutors and court officials to handle the delay and ensuring sufficient space was available, now, of the 188,000 charges pending

in the province, only 17% are scheduled beyond the time guidelines set out in Askov. That's either due to the complexity of the case or, in some cases, the defence has waived its right to plead undue delay.

I promised that I would refer to some of the initiatives taken by this government in the interest of making our justice system work more effectively and in a more cost-effective manner for constituents. Some members of the opposition may say that there are ways to create accountability were financial administration of the courts to be transferred to the judiciary, but I would have to go back to my constituency and ask my constituents: "Who do you want to make basic decisions regarding where money is spent on the courts and whether too much money or too little money is being spent? Do you want a democratically elected government to make those decisions or do you want an appointed judiciary to make those decisions?" This is part of the consultation that we have to enter into.

Earlier this year the Attorney General said to the people of Ontario that Ontario's justice system must be coordinated, it must be responsive, it must be accessible and fair, its practices must be efficient and its resources well managed. Its decisions must be enforced and respected and greater emphasis must be placed on prevention. The court system should be reserved for those matters to which it is best suited. Reforms aimed at achieving this vision will preserve and may enhance the integrity of the system.

Over the next 20 years we may require upwards of 100 new courtrooms, at an average cost of \$2 million to \$3 million each. So this government is exploring, with the judiciary and other parties interested in the functioning of the judicial system, measures that we can invoke to make better use of available space to avoid major capital costs.

In view of the financial constraints in this economy and that this government faces, with the soaring demand for access to the justice system and plummeting revenues, a number of initiatives have been undertaken.

We're exploring ways in which judges, lawyers, court staff, court users and other partners in the judicial system can make better use of court facilities, including holding tiered-court sittings.

We're developing a pilot project for an intake court for criminal matters, including screening of police charges by crown attorneys, disclosure to the defence and limited use of court duty counsel to defend summary conviction and minor indictable charges.

We're exploring the possibility of a video remand system so that prisoners would not have to leave detention centres and so police confessions might be videotaped. We're exploring improvements to procedures and technology in court reporting services. We're improving the enforcement and collection of fines and exploring the alternative of civil remedies such as licence removal.

We have joined initiatives with the federal government on Criminal Code amendments that would expedite court proceedings, such as allowing senior police officers to attach bill conditions, and we're looking at the reclassification of offences.

We're exploring alternative dispute resolution techniques, such as arbitration for construction disputes. We're

exploring satellite courts and evaluating them in the light of modern transportation routes and population trends, looking at their impact on access to the justice system—not to mention the announcement of the pilot project for supervised access sites, amendments to the Arbitrations Act and the Class Proceedings Act, increases to the small claims jurisdictions and a variety of other initiatives that no previous government has had the courage to implement.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Willowdale, you have two minutes to reply.

1100

Mr Harnick: Mr Speaker, I understand that we have a minute left on the clock, or 53 seconds, that I would also like to use.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): It's our time.

Mr Harnick: Which is our time as well.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent? Yes, that's fine.

Mr Harnick: I regret the fact that we are having what I consider to be an intellectual debate. My friend the member for London South approached it in what I would describe as a pretty vitriolic way, and I regret that. But one of the things that causes me great concern over this issue—and quite frankly, I'm not really interested in what a politician's opinion about this is—but I'm caused some distress when the Chief Justice of Ontario states:

"The system has failed because the Ministry of the Attorney General has imposed a top-heavy bureaucracy on the administration of the courts, one which has little experience in the courts and courts administration. It has failed because the government has failed to recognize the need to safeguard the judicial independence which makes the courts different from government agencies.

"It has failed because it did not reflect section 93 of the Courts of Justice act, which, in restating the principles laid down in the Supreme Court decision called *Valente v The Queen*, provides that the judiciary shall determine the sittings of the court, the assignments of judges to sittings, the assignment of cases to individual judges, sitting schedules and the makeup of trial lists and courtroom assignments.

"Most importantly," Chief Justice Callaghan says, "it has failed because it does not comport with the constitutional principle that the judiciary should be independent of other branches of government."

When the Chief Justice of this province says that, I think every person in this room has to be concerned, every member of the public has to be concerned and has to stand up and say that while the Attorney General did just fine looking after the Askov case, when he spent \$27 million and left the justice system with nothing, tapped out, so that the rest of the civil side of the justice system is faltering, it is just absolutely burying your head in the sand.

When the Chief Justice of the province says that the system is failing, surely a debate on something like this is timely and important. I would hope that we would all consider it, not as politicians but recognizing that a member of the judiciary, who also, I might add, was the Deputy Attorney General for many years and knows this system proba-

bly better than any of us will, makes these kinds of comments.

May I just close by reading what former Chief Justice Dickson said about the independence of the judiciary:

"It is essential that the public have faith and trust in the judiciary as impartial adjudicators of all disputes of a legal nature. I fear that public faith and trust may be put at risk by the existing nexus between the judiciary and the Minister of Justice. Preparation of judicial budgets and distribution and allocation of resources should be under the control of the chief justices of the various courts."

The Deputy Speaker: The time allotted for the first ballot item has expired.

RURAL ONTARIO

Mr Johnson moved resolution number 29:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that the rural regions of Ontario have concerns that are distinct from those of the urban regions and that it is important for government policies to take these differences into account; recognizing also that this government now must deal with the economic and social problems of rural Ontario, and in particular with the issues of planning, resource development and of the environment; and recognizing that it is important that rural regions be given representation at every level of the decision-making process, the government should do one of the following:

- (1) Create a ministry or secretariat of rural affairs;
- (2) Expand the mandate of an existing ministry to include rural affairs;
- (3) Create a rural development commission or agency.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Johnson has moved ballot item number 28. Pursuant to standing order 96(c)(i), the member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): It wasn't by luck or by chance that I designed this resolution. I must say that I come from a part of Ontario that, compared to other parts of Ontario, is about as rural as you can get. Except for two small towns, namely Picton in Prince Edward county and Napanee in Lennox and Addington county, the rest of my constituency is mostly rural. There are some other small villages and hamlets, but for the most part I guess I could say that I truly represent a constituency of rural Ontario.

I was a municipal councillor some years ago. In Athol township, where I was a councillor, it became apparent to me at that time that the relationship the municipalities had, and indeed rural Ontario had, with the provincial government was such that there was a feeling that there was some misunderstanding in Toronto, as we always say in rural Ontario, or at Queen's Park, about the real and true needs of rural Ontario.

I've asked for a number of things within my resolution to give the government some options, because we know that if we're very demanding and very direct, sometimes what we ask for isn't what we get.

Certainly I think a ministry or a secretariat of rural affairs would be in the best interests of rural Ontario, but I want to say that it doesn't have to cost a lot of money to

have better representation for rural Ontario. I'd like to think that a minister without portfolio responsible for rural affairs would be a good ministry, but then again maybe a secretariat that represented rural Ontario would be the best way to go.

As I said, I was a municipal councillor, but I've had the opportunity recently as a member of this Legislature to travel throughout my constituency and other parts of rural Ontario, and I've listened very closely to what the municipal politicians have had to say, to what the people have had to say, and, in my opinion, it's not a new problem. I want to make that perfectly clear. This is something that's been ongoing for a long period of time.

I think it's appropriate at this point in time to raise the issue of how, or how not, rural Ontario is treated by the governments of this province. I don't think it's been done with any direct disdain for rural Ontario. It's sort of the result of happenstance. I think rural Ontario wants better recognition at the cabinet tables of the governments of this province, and I don't think there's a member in this House who would disagree with that once he becomes aware of it, and I think that's what we want to do today. We want to have some dialogue within this venue, the Legislature of Ontario, where we can voice our concerns.

This chamber is full today with the members from rural Ontario, so that shows you they are very concerned indeed about rural Ontario and the role it plays in the government of this province.

Presently, we have a Ministry of Northern Affairs, and I recognize that it's a very important ministry and is a ministry that would deal with those issues that are particular to northern Ontario. I think that's very important, and I wouldn't want to suggest that we not have a Ministry of Northern Affairs.

But with regard to rural Ontario, I like to think it's unique enough and its differences from the rest of Ontario are substantive enough that the resolution I have brought before this Legislature today will be given some very serious thought by the government and by all the members of this Legislature.

Within my own constituency I have a chance quite regularly to talk with my municipal politicians, and they tell me they are concerned about how well they are heard or understood at Queen's Park. Certainly all of us, as members of this Legislature who represent rural constituencies, come before this Legislature and bring our concerns into this House, and still there is that concern that maybe the message that rural Ontario wants to give to the Legislature of Ontario, to the cabinet of Ontario, isn't strong enough. It isn't the kind of message that is being heard as well as the people in rural Ontario would like.

We must remind ourselves from time to time that taxpayers in this province pay taxes to the federal government, the provincial government and the municipal government and there's only a limited number of them. These taxpayers are quite concerned. They say that some of the programs, some of the decisions that are made at Queen's Park are made with an urban flavour, an urban characteristic that doesn't really represent the smaller, less densely populated areas that are rural Ontario.

1110

When we look at how municipalities raise their taxes to pay for their programs and the services that all people in Ontario want, they believe there is an inadequacy with regard to how some of these programs are developed. They feel if there was a voice at the cabinet table, rural Ontario would be represented in such a way that some of these shortcomings and problems that become realized as a result of changes in legislation or regulations may not happen. I think that's a very important argument.

Certainly I can use the example of education, not to be opposed in any way to the changes the Minister of Education has advocated for the people of this province. However, I want to speak about my county of Prince Edward, which is within my constituency of Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings. It's the one school board that I, as a member of this Legislature, am entirely responsible for, inasmuch as a member of this Legislature can be responsible for school boards. I know they're having some difficulty with some of the programs the Ministry of Education would like to see implemented. They are having problems because they don't have that density of population or that tax base to draw the dollars without a great hue and cry from the taxpayers within that area with regard to raising the funds for the programs.

Rural Ontario is not a rich area. I think if we examine rural Ontario more closely, some statistics from Statistics Canada very recently suggest to us that rural Canadians and those people in rural Ontario have a higher mortality rate, they have more serious health problems and they have lower literacy rates than their urban counterparts.

Towns and villages have difficulties in luring new businesses. Trying to get a business loan in a small town is not an easy thing, especially during these very difficult economic times. Also, according to some of the statistics, economic downturns affect rural areas first and hardest. Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, that's the message I'm hearing from my constituents.

Unemployment is about 25% higher in rural areas. That means that of unemployed people in the province, you would find it would be 25% higher in rural Ontario. As a result, we find that poverty becomes an issue in rural Ontario. It has a rural flavour, if you will. It's somewhat unique. It's not the same as in some of the urban areas.

I've offered three options to the government and I just want to reiterate them:

To create a ministry or secretariat of rural affairs: That would be my first and foremost option if I was to make a choice; that would be my first choice.

To expand the mandate of an existing ministry to include rural affairs: If we can't have my first choice, then the second choice isn't too bad. It's going to send a message to rural Ontario that the government or the Legislature of Ontario is more concerned about rural Ontario.

To create a rural development commission or agency: That too has some merit, but it's not my first choice.

In winding up, I just want to say that I think this resolution is one that doesn't come from me; it comes from all those people in rural Ontario whom I've spoken to. In fact,

some members of my caucus have raised this issue previously with me, and—

The Deputy Speaker: Your time's expired. Thank you.

Mr Johnson: —on their behalf and on behalf of all rural members, I just want to suggest that they support this resolution.

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I'm very pleased to be allowed the opportunity to speak to this important resolution. At the outset, I want to say that because of my concern for the survival of rural Ontario, I will be supporting the resolution brought forward by the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings.

I do have some reservations, but before proceeding with outlining the reservations, I just want to acknowledge the increase on rural municipalities as the province downloads in various ways in services on local and municipal councils and on county governments, and increases, of course, the standards and imposes regulations as government proceeds. I well recognize the view in rural Ontario that Toronto solutions are in many cases imposed and they're not seen as being the answer or indeed as being helpful.

I want to point out the tremendous increase in local taxes being experienced in many rural areas of the province, and I specifically mention the Haldimand county section, the towns of Haldimand and Dunnville in my own riding, where there are tremendous, inordinately high taxes in comparison to my own area in Brant county.

I realize the face of Ontario is changing and it has changed, and I attribute that to the construction of the superhighways. The QEW, of course, goes back prior to the Second World War in 1939 and attracted development and industry, but since then we've seen the construction of the 400 series of superhighways, highways 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, and there are probably some others. They are attracting the industry, the development and the people, and as they attract the development, the cities are expanding.

We see London-Middlesex, of course, in a present bill and how much the city of London is growing at the expense of the rural municipalities.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Progressive liberal.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order.

Mr Eddy: It seems the rural municipalities are not allowed to have commercial and industrial development, and I think that's a shame.

But the superhighways are attracting it and as that happens the rural areas in the hinterlands, if I can use that term, are indeed losing industry. Many areas are one-industry towns or villages. They lose that and there's nothing there to replace it. Jobs are lost and the population diminishes, and that certainly accentuates the problem so I'm very pleased to speak to that.

Mr Johnson's resolution states "that this government now must deal with the economic and social problems of rural Ontario," and I agree with that, although I find it quite ironic that the member's government actually decreased the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's budget by

6% this year. This indeed was the first cut in agriculture since—

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): Ten per cent.

Mr Eddy: Ten per cent? Thank you, sir. I appreciate your help, honourable member. This is the first decrease, I'm told, since 1985.

It is with great pride that I remind members on both sides of the House that the Liberals increased the budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by over 60% during its short stay in government. In its now famous Agenda for People, the NDP—

Mr Villeneuve: They changed the ministry.

Mr Eddy: Well, we would have done more probably if we had stayed.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order.

Mr Eddy: The NDP promised in its Agenda for People that \$100 million would be made available for low-interest loans for farmers. However, after taking office, the government initiated the Hayes task force, which presented a report on recommended farming initiatives during early spring.

There's no mention of \$100 million in election promises in the options that are being discussed in the report. The long-term proposals in the report all involve government guarantees on private funds as opposed to direct government funding, as we feel was promised.

1120

Does this now indicate that the government is considering following through with the promise? Is the government going to stop putting the burden of farm financing on the backs of struggling rural communities, because most of them indeed are farm assessment? That's what the backbone of the rural communities is. So that is a question I have.

As I stated earlier, I support the resolution, but I really don't believe we need to create a separate ministry or secretariat of rural affairs, not that that wouldn't be an advantage. It's because I don't believe this type of expenditure would be tolerated by the electorate, and of course Mr Johnson spoke to that, that it doesn't need to cost a great deal.

I do support the idea of expanding the mandate of an existing ministry to include rural affairs. However, I don't believe the idea would be to hire more civil servants, but to refocus the kind of assistance the ministry offered. I also support the idea of creating a rural development commission or agency.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture believes that the reason rural development strategies fail is because they are based on a top-down planning approach. However, the ministry is utilizing a bottom-up approach in its community planning pilot project in Huron county. The member for Huron is present, I'm pleased to see.

I believe there are at least two other pilot projects in the province. There is a municipality in my own riding that has an application pending and I hope that can proceed.

It's a large rural township that needs the advantages the project offers and I hope could be accomplished.

The federation is hopeful of success in this project. A group of community leaders identify local problems and then plan and implement integrated solutions to the problems. The ministry's role in this project is to provide resource people to the group while the county provides a professional facilitator. The OFA hopes this approach will be utilized in other counties.

For this reason, I believe that a rural development commission or agency would be most beneficial to the rural communities. If it could be designed so that the communities are consulted at the beginning of the process in order to identify the problems instead of at the end of the process in order to listen to solutions, certainly success would be better attained.

The decline in the farming industry in the last 10 years has put tremendous economic pressure on Ontario's rural communities. Rural development initiatives are required to enhance the natural economic opportunities available in rural communities for new on-farm and off-farm business ventures. Rural members know that family farms are depending more and more on off-farm income in order to support their farming operations, indeed in order to survive these days, and that is a fact.

Our rural communities need the same support in planning their economic viability as the Ontario government is giving to the GTA. Perhaps with the establishment of a new rural commission or agency we would be able to help our rural communities, which they greatly need.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I welcome the opportunity to comment briefly on this important resolution brought forward by the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings. In fact, it's so important that I would like to read it into the record one more time:

"In the opinion of this House, recognizing that the rural regions of Ontario have concerns that are distinct from those of the urban regions and that it is important for government policies to take these differences into account; recognizing also that this government now must deal with the economic and social problems of rural Ontario, and in particular with the issues of planning, resource development and of the environment; and recognizing that it is important that rural regions be given representation at every level of the decision-making process; the government of Ontario should do one of the following:

"1. Create a ministry or secretariat of rural affairs;

"2. Expand the mandate of an existing ministry to include rural affairs;"

"3. Give added support and priority to the activities of the Rural Advisory Committee;

"4 Create a rural development commission or agency."

I consider the resolution to be important, because many of those who live and work in rural Ontario live in poverty, and the NDP government fails to realize that poverty is just as rural as it is urban. Our farmers may not be unemployed, but no matter how hard or how long they work, they just cannot make ends meet. They fall into debt and they lose hope.

Our farmers are not included in the government's long-term vision of the future. Our cheap food policy is neither kind nor just to our farmers. They are part of an economic system that does not treat them fairly or equitably. They earn less than the minimum wage even though they produce what we cannot live without: the food on our tables. Farmers could make a decent living if only they were paid fair prices for what they produce, enough to at least recover their costs. Others in the food chain prosper while farmers suffer. That is a sorry state of affairs.

In rural Ontario we are particularly fortunate in having some of the best agricultural land in the world. Our harvest is bountiful, but most of the time farmers are taken for granted. In 1991, the NDP government announced the appointment of a Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario, the so-called Sewell commission. They were to travel around the province and develop a new system of planning and land use development for Ontario.

You can bet that a commission made up of city folk will come up with some recommendations that are not going to sit well with rural communities, including our farmers. What do a bunch of people from the city know about septic tanks and sewage systems and water allocation questions that the people in rural Ontario don't know? I can tell you, I don't think John Sewell knows.

The time has come for this government to finally realize that it becomes the responsibility of any society to collaborate with its agricultural and rural community to ensure productivity and fair distribution. Rural Ontario is the backbone of our province, and this implies that we all do our part to ensure that the inheritors of the good earth can stay on it, work it profitably and preserve it for the future generations.

Any modern province like Ontario that fails to protect and promote its rural community is headed for big trouble. A province that is not reasonably self-sufficient and secure in its production of food and the preservation of the rural way of life risks losing a precious measure of independence, security and prosperity.

As I noted earlier, the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings is trying to make this matter as easy as possible for his own NDP government and for his colleagues by providing them with a resolution with multiple-choice answers. The government is asked to "create a ministry or secretariat of rural affairs"—that is the member's first priority—"Expand the mandate of an existing ministry to include rural affairs," or "Give added support and priority to the activities of the Rural Advisory Committee" or "Create a rural development commission or agency." I've said that before.

It is my hope that this government will select choice number 2, "Expand the mandate of an existing ministry to include rural affairs," perhaps within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Civil servants already employed by the ministry could deal exclusively with rural affairs, and use money for that purpose that is already part of that ministry's budget.

I don't want to see more taxation to pay for more civil servants working in a new bureaucracy, especially when we have the budget already cut by 10% now in the Ministry of

Agriculture and Food. This government has got to get its spending priorities in order and spend money that is already there more wisely, more efficiently and more effectively. This government must realize that the current bleak economic climate simply cannot support the creation of another new and expanded bureaucracy.

There are two PAs attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food's budget has been reduced. What have these two parliamentary assistants been doing? Have their salaries been reduced? I think not. Perhaps they should consider that in the near future. The member is not paying attention, but I think I finally got to him.

I thank you for the opportunity to say a few words and I hope that in the future this government will realize the ineffective way it's been dealing with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

1130

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): It is an unusual privilege indeed to speak today on behalf of rural residents of Ontario. I have lots and lots of material and I only have five minutes, so I'm going to have to summarize a number of issues, but let me be very clear.

We hear a great deal of, I think, unfortunate rhetoric around the issue of the difficulties of rural people in Ontario making their needs and aspirations known to the government and to the bureaucracy. I want to cut through the rhetoric and just say this is a problem that's been with us for a long time, and it has more to do with demographics and structural problems than it has to do with political will.

In fact, in terms of the change in demographics over the last 50 years, we've seen a real shift in Ontario in the power base. The power base is now with urban areas, and consequently those municipal infrastructures have been built up in those urban areas. More people live there. More money goes there. More services are offered to those people. In fact, we have a situation in which those who make decisions—on a day-to-day basis, not the political decisions; the decisions on how various programs are developed and how they are administered—those people who make those kinds of decisions are out of touch with the reality of rural Ontario. So it's an opportunity today to speak to that reality.

I'd like to say first of all that, as for my own area of Victoria-Haliburton, there are a number of issues that are very particular and make Victoria-Haliburton, like other rural areas in Ontario, very particular.

Access to government: In our area we do not have many government offices, and therefore in my own constituency office we end up working as brokers, trying to connect people to the various levels of government, trying to help them to access programs, trying to help them to cope with the bureaucracy in Ontario, but not having the means to do it, because there are few enough members of the bureaucracy there in our area to support the different questions and different people who are coming forward.

Also, I'd like to say that in terms of the rural population, there are some interesting figures. In Haliburton county, for instance, the population of seniors is 20.36% of

the total of that county. The same in Victoria county; it's 17% of the overall population. What we're seeing is an increase in the number of seniors in our area.

What does that mean? In terms of infrastructure, it means we need heightened health care. We need more supports that are just not there for seniors in those areas. But does that mean we get more money coming into our ridings? In fact, no, that's not the case. We have great difficulties in trying to access proper programs and proper projects for seniors in our area.

I'd like to speak a bit about one of the most difficult problems, and that is that because Victoria-Haliburton is situated where it is, we have very limited membership on boards and agencies that surround us. For instance, many of our boards are located in Durham, or they're located in Peterborough, or they're located in Toronto, but they're not located in our area. Usually, when we want a decision, whether it be in terms of health care or whether it be in terms of a children's aid society or whether it be in terms of even the Ministry of Transportation, we have to go outside our area to represent our views and put forward the needs of the people of Victoria-Haliburton. Very often, we have one seat on a board of directors or one seat on a particular agency that's been set up by the government. In other words, we are always at a disadvantage. We are always in a situation where we have to fight for everything we get.

This is not just the case with Victoria-Haliburton; it's the case right across the province of Ontario in issues surrounding the disabled, in issues surrounding women, in issues surrounding children. In all of those areas we are very, very underfunded in terms of programs. So it is that people in the rural areas begin to wonder indeed whether we're going to be able to get the kind of supports we need.

I would say that the resolution that's put forth by Mr Johnson is a resolution that needs support. It needs support because the voice of rural Ontario needs to be heard loud and clear in this Legislature but also throughout the bureaucracy. I will be standing up and voting in favour of this resolution and I would ask every member of this House to do it for rural Ontario.

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): I welcome the opportunity to join in the debate on the resolution put forward by the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings, which demands that his government make rural Ontario a priority or, at the very least, that it be recognized by the Bob Rae government.

We from rural eastern Ontario have surely seen the disregard afforded our part of the province by this NDP government. Your government has dismantled the eastern Ontario cabinet committee, the eastern Ontario community economic development program and the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. Is it any wonder that the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings cries for help from his caucus colleagues? But let me tell him, he's knocking on the cabinet door, but nobody's home. Surely the cabinet ministers from eastern Ontario, like the Honourable Fred Wilson from his adjoining riding or the Housing minister from Ottawa, should have made their voices heard by now. But, as he well knows, they haven't.

Perhaps the best example of how Bob Rae's government disregards not only eastern Ontario but all of rural Ontario is the way in which it has humbled the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the member for Hastings-Peterborough. This year's budget decrease of 6%, or \$37 million, is the first time the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has seen a decrease in funding since before 1985, when the Tories were in government. The member's cry for help is like a wolf howling at the moon. Surely it's plain for the eye to see that his government has totally disregarded the families and communities of rural Ontario.

It's really difficult not to be negative when talking about the NDP government's record in rural Ontario. Almost every policy or program they put forward negatively affects rural Ontario. I ask, who was speaking for rural Ontario at the cabinet table or in caucus when the Minister of Health made cutbacks to our ambulance services, services that provide access to emergency medical treatment in places where there is none to be found, the services that link many rural Ontarians to hospitals and medical centres?

Did the NDP government forget rural Ontario when it was drafting its plan for long-term care? Did they not realize that we don't need another costly level of bureaucracy that district health units are more than capable of providing? They do provide this and coordinate many of the services that make it possible for seniors to live independently as long as possible. Those dollars could be spent expanding services that seniors and the disabled need, but instead, they continue to remain on long waiting lists.

For the first time in years, municipalities, and certainly municipalities in my riding, have had to turn down supplementary funding offered by the Ministry of Transportation simply because they couldn't afford to match it. You see, municipal governments are far more fiscally responsible than this NDP government. They are not willing to run up record deficits or tax their constituents to overspend in these economically tough times.

Perhaps the biggest problem facing municipal and county councils is that of waste management. I am sure the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings is aware that the landfill capacity in his riding is non-existent and that it could take five to 10 years to get an approval for another site. I ask him, as I am sure many people in his riding and the people throughout rural Ontario do, what are people supposed to do with their garbage? Can't you get your Minister of the Environment's head out of Toronto's garbage to at least look at the situation in all rural Ontario?

As the member points out in his resolution, there is, and I would say more now than ever before, a need for government to recognize not only the unique needs of rural Ontario but the significant contribution rural Ontario can have in rebuilding our economy.

We in our party have always believed that people in rural Ontario have had a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Governments need to promote programs to help rural men and women put good, new ideas to work. The spirit of entrepreneurship in our rural communities deserves this solid backing from the Ontario government.

For instance, why did the government take so long to make the decision to support the ethanol project? It took numerous days of the member for Cornwall as well as the member for S-D-G & East Grenville pleading, demanding, almost shaming the minister into action on this project, which was in danger of being lost to the province of Quebec. Why did something that made such sense environmentally and was energy efficient and cost-effective, to say nothing of the shot in the arm for corn farmers, not get top priority and approval?

The government must make its commitment to help rural communities manage change before change manages them. In doing so, community involvement must be an integral component of the planning process. There must be funding to provide for studies on rural development and to encourage rural entrepreneurs. No longer do we want to hear farm and community leaders say that rural Ontario's greatest export is its youth. No longer can the NDP government stand by and watch the GTA tail wag the Ontario dog. We must recognize rural Ontario for all that it has to offer and make a commitment to help develop and diversify the potential that exists in rural Ontario.

1140

I commend the member opposite for bringing attention to the plight of rural Ontario. I only hope his government is listening carefully. Of the three options he suggested, certainly expanding the mandate of the existing ministry to include rural affairs—but one of the key things there, I think, is to stop the cutbacks to the present OMAF. There can be no more cutbacks; we need increases in that budget. In creating a rural development commission or agency, I would definitely want to make sure that it was made up of farmers and rural-thinking people.

Mr Villeneuve: I too am pleased to rise in my place for a few minutes and address the private member's motion from the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings. First of all, I guess I want to admire him a little bit for not quite putting the facts the way they are. Indeed, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food had its budget cut 6% in the budget document and a further 3%-plus announced in August by the Minister of Agriculture and Food, so indeed we have a 10% reduction. I would like the member to maybe address that in his closing remarks. I know he's concerned by that. It is certainly concerning all of us, because Agriculture and Food does have the vehicles in place to look after the rural parts of Ontario. They are set up in all parts of Ontario. If indeed the member's motion is going to meet with approval from the powers that be within this government, I think it has to go to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

It was interesting to notice the Liberal member mentioned that when the Liberal government was in power it increased the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by 60%. The interesting part about that is they took the farm tax rebate out of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and put it into the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. It was about \$150 million, so it didn't mean one penny more from the government to rural Ontario, but it looked good when you added it to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

I remember back in the days when the NDP was in opposition. They promised us a ministry of eastern Ontario, believe it or not. But that sure went up in smoke very shortly after they formed the government, and of course the cabinet did not include anyone as a minister of eastern Ontario. That I guess we can accept.

However, we find out now that the Ministry of Natural Resources is going out into rural Ontario and designating areas as wetlands in spite of the fact that the farmers had no input. It's a great thing to designate so-called wetlands; however, remember people own that land and pay taxes on it. Just like the London annexation—64,000 acres—farmers are very unhappy.

I suggest to those farmers who are in the area that's being annexed that indeed they should have the priority of selling at market value to the annexing body or to the government of Ontario with a leaseback. If they cannot farm without the hassle of that area, then at least they have their money at market value. But right now their rights are being totally disregarded in the London annexation.

More bureaucracy is something we don't need. I attempted to establish how many bureaucrats we have working for the government of Ontario right now. Would you believe that we don't have any more bureaucrats? They're FTEs, full-time equivalents. Now, that's interesting. We have more than 90,000 FTEs, full-time equivalents, working within the bureaucracy of the government of Ontario, up some 10,000 from about seven years ago. If indeed this new ministry is going to bring more FTEs into the system, I'm not sure I'm going to support it.

The Ministry of the Environment is one that gets very much involved in what happens in rural Ontario. I have met recently with a number of people within the Ministry of the Environment because of a certain project that's happening, not only in my riding but in my home community. Yes, the Ministry of the Environment did invest some money for architectural and engineering, but all of a sudden, we've come to where we are going to start putting bricks and mortar in place. There will be a lagoon dug, at least supposedly, and the sewage and water project was about ready to go, but they have no money for new projects. I understand they will continue with the existing projects, but there is no money for new projects. Yet this particular project would bring in some 160 new homes to a small rural community. It would also look after major problems with sewage and water.

But there's no money for new projects. Money has been spent, the engineering is done. Basically the municipality has gone out on a limb and spent some of its own money to go into final design, but there is no money for new projects from the Ministry of the Environment. Yet the same ministry came through and put all sorts of requirements and absolute musts for this municipality to meet, procrastinated, put the things off, and now there is no money.

There are a few letters, one signed by Frank Anthony, the president of the Ontario Corn Producers association, and its heading is "Farming is not a Queen's Park Priority." I appreciate the member this morning realizing that, but he's bringing it with a rather soft touch. I think we

have to tell the people of Ontario that Agriculture and Food got a 10% cut in the last year. It's now less expensive for the government of Ontario to provide support for Agriculture and Food than it is to run the provincial jails, for example. Not many people know that. Jails cost more to maintain in Ontario than the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Another interesting statistic is that the Ministry of Labour got a 16% increase in its budget. What did Agriculture and Food get? A 10% reduction.

I compliment the member for recognizing that, but call a spade a spade. That's what been happening. The Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Honourable Elmer Buchanan, I think is doing a great job, but he's a lone voice in the wilderness at that cabinet table, and I'm not sure that creating a new bureaucracy outside of his ministry is going to assist him.

There are two of my friends who are parliamentary assistants. I get to chat with them regularly and we discuss the problems they have in their particular ridings. Give these gentlemen more responsibility within the ministry of agriculture, the only ministry that has two parliamentary assistants. Let's use them. They're already being paid; let's use them.

In the Kingston Whig-Standard, a paper I'm sure the honourable member reads on a regular basis, the September 30, 1992, heading is "Mind-Boggling" regarding the additional costs that are being anticipated for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food: meat inspection and water testing, licensing fees for tractors, the purchase of annual permits by people engaged in food handling and the charging of provincial sales tax on resale of homes. These are costs it is being speculated will be added to the rural Ontario residents as taxpayers.

Another letter here—and it's too bad the time is so short: "The gambling casinos that will be apparently occurring will destroy the horse racing industry of Ontario, which is anchored within the rural parts of Ontario. It's a multibillion-dollar business, the raising, the training, the production of feed etc, and it will be decimated by the coming of the one-armed bandit, that doesn't eat much hay, but it's sure hard on your wallet."

1150

"A key difference between the Saskatchewan and Ontario situations is that we have not had the support of the Ontario Premier and the Ontario government seeking redress in the hardship year created last year." This is a letter from the Ontario corn producers, the soybean producers, the wheat producers and the OFA.

We have a major problem, and I have just touched the tip of the iceberg. I appreciate the honourable member bringing it to the attention of his government, but put the facts on the table.

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): I stand here today to recognize my colleague who brought forth this ballot item number 28. It's amazing: It makes it sound like nothing has been done to this point in time, and I want to try to get the record a little more clear.

My political life started back in the late 1970s. One of the things I didn't hear when I went to meetings was that

the government didn't care. As I worked my way along, all of a sudden this word kept coming into meetings, "It's the Toronto solution to rural Ontario." I kept a very open mind, but as time passed, we continued to hear that message. In fact, I think the message was not heard by the Tory government, and it was put out. The Liberals got in. I thought they would catch on that they should talk about rural issues, and not just talk about it but do something about it. I don't have to scratch very deep: We did not hear at the meetings about the situation changing. It still kept going: red tape, Toronto issues forced on local governments in rural Ontario.

I think that was one of the reasons a lot of us in government were elected in rural Ontario, because they were not listened to. More importantly, they were not acted on. In getting here, one of the very first things was the graded lumber issue, which was put in by the Liberals; it came into effect when we got in. I got phone calls in my office: "What are you guys doing putting this graded lumber thing in? Don't you know anything about rural Ontario?" I instantly said, "I'd like to know who did this, we're going to find out about it and we'll fix it."

The first thing I found out was that the Liberals put it in. If they didn't consult rural sawmills, that's their problem. That's just one example. More importantly, we fixed that issue. It wasn't in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, it was in the Ministry of Housing, but the Ministry of Housing doesn't consult with rural Ontario and that's probably one of the reasons that happened, although there may be others.

So what did we do? We had to spend time fixing that problem. To me, it was one prime example of why we need to have the government of Ontario put the loop in of rural Ontario, not just the Ministry of Agriculture and Food but the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of the Environment, MTO and every ministry. Basically, you take steps at a time, you build, and that's what this is about today.

I don't recall over the last 10 years in this House this kind of debate about rural Ontario. I find it bizarre when I hear questions, especially from the official opposition, which clearly had the mandate to get back on track. I can understand the Progressive Conservative Party losing it, because after 42 years maybe one gets a little complacent and that can happen, but for the Liberals to sit there and do that, I find it bizarre.

More importantly, what have we done? We've started to turn this ship around. One of the first things this government did was set up the Rural Advisory Committee, of which I was honoured to be the chair and have many colleagues on. That was one of the issues, the lumber grading issue. We talked in RAC and said, "Let's get on this," and we helped move it along.

The situation about the whole rural fabric isn't just agriculture; it's the towns. The opposition talked a little bit earlier about everybody leaving rural Ontario. Basically, the policies of government caused that. It's a question of which came first, the chicken or the egg. We listen about big multinationals and the free trade issues, but not the fact

that you need small businesses and you need rural economic development. We are working on that.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): Why do they leave it to a backbencher to bring it forward if it's so important?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Klopp: Obviously, I've hit a chord. The member knows I'm right. Thank you very much over there for your problems.

We started the pilot projects that were mentioned earlier by colleagues across the floor. You know, the best compliment is when your opposition tells you you're doing a good job, and I thank you.

Of course, it takes time. We've had 10 years with this horse in rural Ontario that's been fed poor hay. You can't fix it instantly. You've got to start rebuilding. People in my riding have told me you don't go for quick solutions, because that is not the right way. It is very painful, but we're working very hard on those things.

I look at the Ministry of the Environment; everybody talks about the situations there. We are working on that to streamline the process. It takes time, but we're working at it.

I look at little things which tell me we're doing things. The community centre in Belgrave, a little hamlet: Very clearly, if we hadn't had an NDP government promoting the idea that the lottery funds go all over Ontario, not just—we all take our little chance and buy those tickets, and rural Ontario should have just as much chance to get those grants as a large municipality. I'd like to think, and I know, it was our initiative that said: "Belgrave should be on that list. It's just as important as a city of 40,000 or 50,000."

We say: "Let's spend more money. Let's spend more money." The reality is that we can't spend more money; we've got to spend it smarter. In the town of Bayfield the local seniors said, "We need to have something in this little town for our people." You know what happened? Because of the direction from our leaders, the Ministry of Health said, "Go and try to get it resolved, but there is no money." A local solution was arrived at. I went to that seniors' opening that day. Bayfield people do pay taxes, but it didn't cost the taxpayers anything and they got a service they wanted.

Indeed, I think we are doing great things. We are moving as fast as we possibly can, and today is one of these examples to show that we do care about this province and rural Ontario.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I am very pleased to be up here speaking in favour of the private member's resolution of the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings. I don't have a whole lot of time, so I'll just touch on some of the issues that were raised.

The Liberals, for example, talked about the budget and cutting back on the budget. Needless to say, the public knows, and all the farmers and all the rural communities know, that the Liberals left us with great debt and pretended they had excess money.

The other issue they talked about is that it took us so long on the ethanol situation. Why are you only interested in it after this government got into power? You weren't interested when you were in.

The member from the Conservative Party was talking about two parliamentary assistants. There are two parliamentary assistants in there who do work very hard. The difference is that the parliamentary assistants to the previous governments never had any input and weren't invited into many of the meetings with the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The difference is that this government, even though there are certainly cuts in the budgets—and not just that budget. We do not like to see cuts in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food budget at all; none of us does. But let me tell you one thing. This government, especially the Minister of Agriculture and Food, is doing a better job and spending our money more wisely, with less money. The farmers told us, "If you can put together a good program with less money, it's better than what the previous governments did." They spent lots of money on poor programs, ad hoc programs.

We had a program, the farm income assistance program, because of the financial review committee, where the farmers came to me and said, "This is the first program that I, as a farmer, was eligible for because you have set this program up for the people most in need." I think that's very important.

With regard to some of the problems we do have, the issue was raised on the annexation in the London area. I think with this type of resolution, and if this is followed through, there would be more and better input from the rural community to deal with some of these issues, because the things that we have in legislation that's passed or bylaws, or whatever the case, that are done in Toronto, traditionally for too many years these things have not necessarily met the needs of the people in rural communities.

The other thing is that with all the programs like FIAP, like the commodity-based loan program, the private mortgage program, the rural loan pool, the apprenticeship programs, these things that we're dealing with right now, let me tell you, this is the first time that we've had every farmers' association and all the commodity groups and the farm women's network and all these people on committees dealing with every one of these so the farmers have a voice right from the ground floor up on these.

The Deputy Speaker: The time provided for private members' business has expired.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Oh, I apologize. The member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings.

Mr Johnson: First of all, I want to apologize to all the members from the north. It was brought to my attention by the member for Cochrane North that there is not a Ministry of Northern Affairs. Indeed, there is a Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. However, that ministry does represent the north.

I listened very carefully to all the comments that all my colleagues in this Legislature made today. I agreed with

many of them, and some of them were not so agreeable. However, let me tell you that with regard to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, I think the member for Essex-Kent is right: People from rural Ontario have been telling us for a long time, "You've got to spend your money more wisely." That's the message this government's taking now. It's the message that we've been given. Let's be fair and let's be frank: We're in very difficult economic times right now. At no time have we had to spend our money more wisely.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is doing a good job, in my opinion. I don't think the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, representing farmers and the farming communities in this province, should have to deal with all the other issues that I spoke of earlier. They shouldn't have to deal with the issues that are raised by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment.

I think there needs to be some kind of representative body, and as I've already indicated, I think it should be a ministry or a secretariat. There should be that representative body that is available for the people in rural Ontario to lodge their concerns with that comes before the cabinet so that there is true and real representation of rural Ontario at the cabinet. In my opinion, that has never happened in previous governments. It's not happening now. It doesn't have to cost any extra money. We can redistribute moneys within other ministries.

The Deputy Speaker: The time provided for private members' business has expired.

COURT SYSTEM

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will deal first with ballot item number 27, standing in the name of Mr Harnick. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise?

Mr Harnick has moved private member's resolution number 24. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Pursuant to standing order 96(f), the recorded vote on this ballot item is deferred.

RURAL ONTARIO

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will now deal with ballot item number 28, standing in the name of Mr Johnson. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise?

Mr Johnson has moved private member's resolution number 29. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. This will be a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1206 to 1210.

COURT SYSTEM

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Will the members please take their seats. We will now vote on ballot item 27, standing in the name of Mr Harnick. All those in favour of the motion will please rise and remain standing until your name is called.

Ayes

Arnott, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Caplan, Chiarelli, Cunningham, Drainville, Eddy, Elston, Eves, Fawcett, Harnick, Jordan, Kormos, Lessard, McLean, Miclash, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Sterling, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

Nays

Abel, Akande, Bisson, Carter, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Farnan, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Hayes, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Perruzza, Rizzo, Sutherland, Wessinger, Winninger, Wood.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 27, the nays 30.

The Deputy Speaker: The ayes are 27; the nays are 30. I declare the motion lost.

RURAL ONTARIO

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will now deal with private member's notice of motion 29,

standing in the name of Mr Johnson. All those in favour of the motion will please rise and remain standing until your name is called.

Ayes

Abel, Akande, Arnott, Bisson, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Caplan, Carter, Chiarelli, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Eddy, Elston, Eves, Farnan, Fawcett, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Hayes, Jamison, Johnson, Jordan, Klopp, Kormos, Lessard, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Mathysen, McLean, Miclash, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Rizzo, Sutherland, Wessinger, Wilson (Simcoe West), Winninger, Wood.

Nays

Cunningham, Harnick, Sterling, Turnbull, Villeneuve.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 52, the nays 5.

The Deputy Speaker: The ayes are 52; the nays are 5. I declare the motion carried.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. All matters related to private members' public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30 this afternoon.

The House recessed at 1217.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ATTENDANCE OF PREMIER

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): A review of Hansard, the transcript of all proceedings in the Legislative Assembly, can be rather revealing. Consider the following statements:

"What are we supposed to do if they do not come here day after day and choose when to be here and when not to be here?" or

"The Premier has chosen to be away every single day since he announced his retirement in this House, with the exception of the one day we forced him to turn up. If he chooses to be an absent duck as well as a lame duck, that is his privilege, but we are certainly entitled to ask questions."

The author of those legitimate complaints is none other than Bob Rae, the Phantom of the Assembly, the absentee Premier who appears rarely in the House these days, and when he does favour elected members with his presence, chooses to depart early with opposition questions left in abeyance.

To the thousands of men and women in the Ontario auto industry whose jobs may be in severe jeopardy as a result of past and impending announcements of plant closings, the departure of Premier Rae for the Far East must be as dismaying and infuriating as it is to their elected provincial representatives, who wish to hold the Premier accountable and to seek solutions.

The Premier of Ontario should stay home to protect the jobs of General Motors workers in this time of decision by the new corporate regime, rather than abandoning the province to embark upon yet another foreign tour. It is time for the Premier to go to bat for the potential victims of the GM axe now, before the axe falls.

RYAN RIVINGTON

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I would like to take a moment to tell you about a remarkable child by the name of Ryan Rivington, son of Mr and Mrs Rivington of Almonte, Ontario. He's a 13-year-old boy who was born with an extremely rare chromosome disorder called Wilf Hershorne syndrome. Ryan is one of only 40 people in North America who have this condition, and of these 40 cases, none of these children have walked and talked to the extent that Ryan has.

According to Ryan's language teacher, Brenda-Leah Dizzell-Jordan, Ryan has personally raised the limits of his syndrome through individual courage, the determination of his family and the support of the students and teachers of Caldwell school in Carleton Place.

Of 608 students nominated throughout North America, Ryan was the recipient of the Yes I Can award for 1992, for which he was honoured in Atlanta, Georgia. This award recognizes the tremendous progress that Ryan has made despite his handicap. Ryan is able to speak in five- or six-word sentences now. He is developing grammatical

skills every day, and he's able to communicate through the use of a computer. The story of Ryan Rivington can serve as an inspiration for all families and children who face the challenges of being physically disabled.

FACILITIES IN WINDSOR

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): I'm pleased to rise in this House today to announce the opening of two unique facilities in the city of Windsor.

I was proud to be part of the opening of Century Secondary School just last week in my riding of Windsor-Sandwich. Century Secondary is the amalgamation of both Shawnee and Cal-Tec schools, which have come together to form a creative new endeavour. Along the way, \$2.5 million was spent renovating the 28-year-old building.

It is with due respect that I congratulate Mr Don Henry, principal of Century Secondary, as well as the staff, students and the parents on behalf of my Windsor colleagues.

I'm also pleased to inform members of the Legislature about the opening of the Accessible Housing Services office in Windsor at University and Campbell Avenue. I've had the opportunity to meet with Ms Barb Murdoch, the executive director of the office, and her staff, who will be assisting people in Windsor in need of shelter. They will be working closely with the offices of all the Windsor MPPs and together will find solutions for suitable housing.

Shelter is central to everything in our lives: our families, our work, our peace of mind. Housing is critical to our wellbeing. The service the office will provide to the people of Windsor and Essex county will make a real difference between a place to sleep or sleeping on the streets, and I'm pleased to be part of that solution.

Again I offer congratulations to everyone at the new Century Secondary high school at 1375 California Avenue, and also to Accessible Housing Services on University at Campbell Avenue in Windsor.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Yesterday truly was a sad day when 5,000 to 6,000 police officers in this province found it necessary to come to the front lawn of Queen's Park to protest.

In the questioning in this Legislature, the Premier found it convenient to simply quote out of context from a release by Chief Robert Lunney, the chief of police in the region of Peel. I want to make it clear that the chief in the region of Peel is not in support of the job action, but clearly is in support of the men and women of the Peel Regional Police force. He understands the frustration, and in fact has said in an article from the Toronto Star: "Their concerns"—referring to the men and women of the police force—"are the same concerns that the chief has, the same frustrations that I've experienced...I'm pleased to tell you that I support them because I feel the same way."

I've asked the Premier to stay home and deal with the police. We understand that on November 5, as has been pointed out by my colleague, the Premier will be leaving. He refuses to stay in this Legislature to answer the questions

of the opposition. He refuses to meet with the police officers. He refuses to accept the fact that the chief of police in Peel region is in support of the men and women of that force and wants a meeting to take place. I call on the Premier to stay home and solve this problem.

FAMILY FISHING WEEKEND

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of Natural Resources. It concerns a unique suggestion from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters that would promote family activity and foster participation in conservation.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has written to your deputy minister to suggest that your ministry implement the concept of a licence-free family fishing weekend. Apparently, the province of Manitoba is already promoting a similar event, which has become quite successful.

It is my hope that you will give the federation's suggestion serious consideration. Perhaps a family fishing weekend could take place each year on the civic holiday weekend in early August, because I believe this event would go a long way towards fostering participation in conservation and greater caring for our natural resources in Ontario.

Minister, I think there is another very important reason for holding a family fishing weekend each year in Ontario, and it directly relates to a concern I have with your government's Sunday shopping legislation. Bill 38, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act, will all but do away with a common pause day in the province of Ontario. I've always believed we should retain Sunday as a traditional day of rest, a common pause day, when we can worship in the church of our choice, rest up for the coming week or spend some quality time with our families. The NDP government's Bill 38 will put an end to this tradition.

Therefore, I urge the minister to seriously consider the federation's suggestion of a family fishing weekend to preserve the family structure as well as fostering participation in conservation and greater caring for our natural resources.

LONDON INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Mr David Winninger (London South): I'm pleased to rise in the House today to highlight a small but very positive step towards making Canada more globally competitive.

In my riding of London South, business and education are cooperating to teach grade 8 students what it takes to get and keep skilled jobs. This is being accomplished through an innovative first project of the London Investment in Education Council. Fifty London businesses and organizations will open their doors to 47,000 grade 8 students for three half-days of hands-on job experience. Such organizations as 3M, VanWesten and Rutherford Consulting Engineers, London hospitals and the University of Western Ontario will, on the work site, involve students in exploring a variety of different kinds of jobs.

The ultimate aim of this program is to demonstrate to students that they must be trainable and remain trainable to

compete in a changing world, to show them there are not simply jobs to get but skills to learn. This understanding may abide with them throughout their lives.

I support the work of the London Investment in Education Council. I trust that its success will help our children succeed in the future and will help Canada succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

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PREMIER'S CONDUCT

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I want to express my profound disappointment with Premier Rae. Two events this week have revealed a side of the Premier that is most concerning and in my opinion have done much to damage his personal credibility.

The first was when he decided to send a letter to the chair of the Ontario Municipal Board urging the chair to take action in support of the government. This is wrong, wrong, wrong. This is a quasi-judicial body. It's like a court. The Premier can't be sending letters instructing them what to do. It's wrong and it has done much to damage the personal credibility of the Premier.

Every single member of your caucus knows it's wrong, every cabinet minister knows it's wrong, but what did he do? He chose to defend the indefensible. He should have said he was wrong, admitted it and apologized to the people of Ontario.

The second thing that damaged his credibility was that, right when we're in the midst of an economic crisis, he has chosen to flee the country for two weeks. Right when we see youth unemployment in this province 20% higher—Ontario's unemployment rate among young people is 20% higher than it is in the rest of the country—what does the Premier choose to do at this time? He's gone. He has gone to Japan while we in the Legislature want him here to defend his actions. The Premier can run but he won't be able to hide from these issues.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My statement is to the Premier. Mr Premier, since the rejection of the Charlottetown accord on Monday you have been quoted as saying the economy, jobs and training will be your government's priority.

On January 21, 1992, your Treasurer announced historically low transfer payments of 1%, 2% and 2%. School boards, universities and community colleges recognize these economically difficult times and have made responsible financial decisions based on your government's announcement. School boards and universities are now hearing they may not receive the promised 2% transfer payments for 1993.

This was a contractual obligation your Treasurer announced as part of a multi-year promise. Transfer payment agencies have already budgeted with a 2% increase for the following two years. Salaries have been negotiated and services have been rationalized due to the low transfer payments.

Mr Premier, if this is true, if this is truly a fact, this is totally irresponsible. You cannot effectively run a province

while renege on your financial commitments. No one would run a business this way. How can you possibly run the province in this way?

If you are truly committed to improving the economic situation in this province, you will ensure that school boards, universities and colleges receive their 2% increase for the next two years so that they can continue to educate our youth, so that they can meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Mr Premier, you should know that universities receive approximately \$1.9 billion from the government, which means that for every \$1 the government invests in higher education, our universities generate some \$3.

TORONTO WATERFRONT

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): I'm pleased to rise to share with all of you a success story in my riding of Fort York.

There was little vision on the part of the Harbourfront Corp and the local municipality when the west Harbourfront community, made up of co-ops and Cityhome buildings, first came into being approximately 10 or 12 years ago. At that time, no plans were made for schools, health and recreational facilities, transportation services or a shopping area for this new community. The residents of this neighbourhood have fought long and hard to bring some of these essential services to the area, and earlier this year I was pleased to attend the opening of the Harbourfront Community Centre.

This past Saturday I was invited by the community to celebrate another success. Faced with a lack of accessibility to affordable food in the community, the residents got together to find a creative, community-based solution to their dilemma. The result was that on August 22 of this year, a small group of volunteers opened up the West Harbourfront Food Co-Op on the abandoned Canada Malting site. At present they stock fresh Ontario-grown fruits and vegetables, an assortment of fruit juices, and bread from a local bakery.

The elected municipal representatives and I strongly support this project and are working closely with the community to find a permanent location for the co-op with better facilities so that a wider range of food products can be offered.

The West Harbourfront Food Co-op is an innovative community initiative which deserves our recognition and praise. It provides residents with nutritious food and invaluable work experience, but most of all it shows what a determined community can accomplish together.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Pursuant to standing order 34(a), the member for Mississauga West has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question yesterday given by the Premier concerning police job action. This matter will be debated today at 6 pm.

Point of order, the member for Welland-Thorold.

VISITOR

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): I rise with great seriousness and indeed recognizing full well how important points of order are. Mr Speaker, you might recall that some three months ago I announced the birth of

George Dadamo's son, Anthony. Well, here he is live at Queen's Park, Anthony Dadamo from Windsor-Sandwich. We all welcome him, with his mother, Maria.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia): On that point of order, Mr Speaker: I noticed that young Anthony was listening with real rapt attention when his father was making his statement in the House today, but I was discussing this with Anthony at lunch and I know how disappointed he is that Premier Rae is not here for his appearance in the House.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I don't know if the member for Welland-Thorold can find anything in the standing orders that allows him to make this point, but how could I rule a baby out of order?

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I have a point of order with respect to some of the events of the last few days in this place. I have spent some time, if not my entire waking hours, looking at the rules and the standing orders and other things as we try to find a way in which we can conduct the business of this House. I've read in various places. This happens to be Erskine May, but I've been looking in other places as well, and I look at page 200, for instance, where it talks about the role of the official opposition and the fact that this forum is our only place to do business, our only place to hold accountable the work of the executive of the government of Ontario, the only place to hold accountable the Premier and other people.

While we aren't asking you to sort of go and drag the Premier in here day after day because he won't attend on his own merit, because we understand that's not your role, Mr Speaker, we understand that generally speaking, the standing orders do provide the members of this place with guidance as to how we can do our work.

Our work is to analyse the public policy that is brought here to this House by the government. We have now been forced to deal with Bill 40 on the basis of three days of second reading debate and a few days in a committee over the summer, a committee which excluded almost 75% of the public deputations that wanted to be heard. We have gone through clause-by-clause, which excluded the reading on to the record and the debate of both the government amendments to the bill as it was filed for second reading. We have gone through two days of committee of the whole which also excluded the actual reading of most of the amendments upon which votes were held yesterday.

We have tried several ways of being able to do our business as members of Her Majesty's official opposition. As members of the opposition of this House, we are duty-bound to question, to query and to develop arguments against bad policy decisions. While I understand we cannot always come to an agreement that our case is right, we understand that we must be allowed, as official opposition, to put our case, sir. The standing orders tell us how to do it.

On numerous occasions, there have been questions about whether or not the time allocation motion which has been levied by the member for Windsor-Riverside in his capacity as government House leader actually covers off all the angles, and we have attempted to raise on several occasions means by which we could do our business.

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Just reading these, I have found it somewhat problematic to feel comfortable that I can find anyplace where all the rulings and other things are available for me to consult, because when I raise something that is not specifically dealt with in these items there is, without hesitation, I might add—and that causes me some degree of pause—a ruling that the exact translation of the words on the page is to be dealt with. In other cases, I have found that you have liberally interpreted what has been written on the page in order to process the business of the day.

My point of order is this, Mr Speaker: If I cannot rely upon the words written in the standing orders of this House for guidance as to what can and cannot be done, then I would ask that you, Mr Speaker, with the work of your Clerk, right away compile for us a guide for the use of the standing orders, an annotated standing orders issue, line by line which helps us understand where in the dickens you're getting all of your rulings, and how it is that the rulings which you have done so far comply with not only the tradition of the Speaker, but your statements to us as members of the House when you were running for the elected position of Speaker, that the rules of this place would be maintained and that the rights of the minority would be protected in this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I ask you to consult with your Clerk and to come forth with all the materials in one written document so that I can use it as a companion to the standing orders and so that I cannot be surprised by some new interpretation on an ad hoc basis. There must be, if this place is to run well, a building on the traditions of this House obviously, but there must be a degree of certainty for those of us as legislators.

One final point that I wish to make is that while I know we have some difficulties in the way the procedure of this place works from time to time, it must be well understood that this House, this Legislative Assembly has its own traditions and that we cannot take the traditions of some other forum and move them into this place just because somebody thinks it's better somewhere else.

If there are to be changes made in the way that we do all our work here, then they should be done in accordance with how this institution has developed. I ask you, sir, if you will not help us in understanding what and where all the rules, all these things are hidden so that we will not be surprised.

Finally, we are talking about new rules now, many of which are not part of our tradition, many of which had no existence in this place before June 22, 1992. That, I understand, will cause some pause for being able to write down an annotated version of all those rules.

But the one point that I must make more than ever is the fact that the new rules are really now pushing all these members into a position of being unable to speak on very many of the bills. The time allocation motion will guarantee the government that on any sort of critical public issue it will have only three days to listen to the members. I can tell you that if it is a critical public issue, like the labour bill is, has been and will continue to be, then three days ensures that very few of our members, very few of the

Progressive Conservatives and almost none of the government people can ever find time in this forum to raise their constituents' views on the issues.

It must be, Mr Speaker, assuredly a concern of yours and you must tell us how you are going to make this place work in a way that allows us to freely speak, because in my view it is in our best interests and it is in the interests of our constituents to be able to freely speak, and it is in accord with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for the people's forum to be the place where we can put our case.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I would also like to stand on this point of order and ask you, Mr Speaker, if you would kindly provide our caucus House leader with a written ruling on the point of order offered by our House leader, the member for Parry Sound, last night with respect to your ruling on the mace being on the table.

I'd like written reasons, because as I checked Hansard I could find nothing offered by yourself as to why you ruled the way you ruled. On the point of order that the member stood on, you didn't offer an explanation as to why you ruled the way you ruled. You simply left the chamber when the member for Parry Sound was on his feet on a point of order. You didn't even stay to hear his point of order. You offered no reason as to your ruling on that point of order, and with all due respect, Mr Speaker, I have a very difficult time understanding exactly why you ruled the way you did.

This particular caucus would like to see, in writing, exactly the rationale, the precedents and your reasons for ruling that Mr Eves's point of order was not in fact in order. We would like to have it as guidance for future use, to find out, if we are in the House after 6 o'clock, why we have not adjourned. We would like to know, in precedents, how you could leave the chamber after 6 o'clock, while the House was sitting after 6 o'clock, and revert this House back to committee of the whole. We still have a very great deal of trouble with your rationale, with your ruling. We would like to see it in writing for future use and we ask you to give us that some time next week, because we would like to see a comprehensive review of your decision.

I am flabbergasted. I found it unbelievable that you escaped; you didn't offer a reason and you escaped while a member was standing on his feet for a point of order that I know you saw, and in fact left this chamber from.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): First, to the member for Etobicoke West, who raises a very different point of order, I would direct the member first to Hansard, because I don't know if the member was in the chamber last night or not, but indeed I dealt with the point of order that was raised and provided the rationale for it. However, as is my wont to do, I'm more than pleased to respond in writing to requests by members.

I would like to respond to the member for Bruce. I realize, acknowledge and appreciate the deep interest which the member always shows in the procedures. I understand full well the frustrations which he has expressed. I must say, and I don't want to take it any further, but rather that every piece of legislation which comes before the

assembly deserves a full opportunity to be discussed and debated. That's, I think, a very basic principle.

New rules were passed by the House. That is true. The member will know that standing orders are not the only thing that a Speaker must rely on in terms of procedure, that indeed the very references to which he referred, Erskine May, and Beauchesne are two of the reference books which we rely on, and in addition to that, practice and precedent.

The member is correct that we always look first to Ontario, to our own history as a Legislature, to be guided. Where there is no guidance available in that history, we then turn to other sources, usually the House of Commons in Ottawa, Westminster, and on occasion Australia, because they are Commonwealth members and because, of course, Westminster was the first Parliament.

I believe the member will be pleased to learn that currently we are compiling a book on practices and procedures in the Ontario House. That's not completed, but it is well under way through the Clerk's office. That book, obviously, I, like you, would be delighted to see printed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I can assure the member that I will continue to be guided by the standing orders, the practices, the precedents, the good reference books on parliamentary practice, and indeed at every step of the way will do my best to ensure that we live up to the motto of this chamber: Hear the other side.

1400

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): A point of order, Mr Speaker, if you'll indulge me for a moment: I was not in the House at the end of question period yesterday but I do understand a rather interesting ruling was made by you.

When the member for Leeds-Grenville had posed a question, I understand there was some unruly behaviour in the House and the remainder of the time for question period—I believe it was approximately seven minutes—had expired. When the House did reconvene or start up again, I understand you refused to recognize the member for Burlington South in terms of posing the supplementary that was left on the original question, and instead you permitted one of the government members to ask a question of a minister.

I would like this clarified in writing as well, sir, because I am not aware of anywhere in the standing orders where it says the Speaker will determine who will ask questions in this place. As I understand it, that is left to each individual party in the Legislature. With all due respect, sir, there are several occasions where questions are split, and one member asks the initial question and another member asks the supplementary, or one member asks the question and there are two supplementaries in the case of lead questions and two different individuals ask the supplementaries.

As I said, I must preface this by saying I was not here, but for you to indicate that the member for Leeds-Grenville was no longer in the chamber, I don't know what that has to do with the fact that the member for Burlington South wanted to ask a supplementary. And I don't know

anywhere in the rules where it dictates that the Speaker will dictate to the opposition parties who has the right to ask questions and who does not. I'd like that clarified in writing as well.

We have another precedent, by the way, set by yourself where you did permit that to happen. So now we have one on each side of the issue. You have one where you say it is appropriate, and you had one yesterday where you say it's inappropriate. Maybe we could get our act together and you could clarify that in writing so we all know where we stand.

The Speaker: To the member for Parry Sound: I did deal with this point yesterday. Although the member who raised the point is no longer in the chamber, may I say, if it's of some assistance, that indeed he is correct in his interpretation of the standing orders.

If I could remind members as to precisely what happened, at the moment when we were finally able to restore order to the chamber I looked at the third party, which was entitled to a supplementary. There were a number of members who were standing at the time, all in about the same area as where the desk for the member for Burlington South is located. I could not determine that there was a particular member who wanted to ask a question, as there was a number of members who were simply standing or in the process of leaving the chamber. I then followed the standing orders, which say that the Speaker must go in rotation around the chamber, so I then looked to the government benches and indeed one member was standing, waiting to ask a question.

If the member for Burlington South had actually been standing to ask his supplementary and I didn't notice him because he was surrounded by other members who were also standing, I apologize for that oversight. It was not intentional. I was simply trying to comply with the standing orders.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

ACCESSORY APARTMENTS APPARTEMENTS ACCESSOIRES

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I am pleased to announce that my colleague Dave Cooke will be introducing amendments today to the Planning Act and to the Municipal Act to allow people to create an apartment in their house.

In June we released draft legislation to allow home owners to create an apartment in their house as long as reasonable health and safety standards are met.

This legislation has many benefits. Jobs are the priority for our government, and this legislation will create jobs in the renovation and building supplies industry.

Grâce à cette réglementation, les personnes accédant à la propriété et ayant besoin d'aide pour rembourser leur prêt hypothécaire pourront louer un appartement dans leur maison, et ce en toute légalité.

Seniors will be able to stay in their own homes longer, with the apartment providing additional income and the security of knowing someone else is living in the house.

All across Ontario, apartments in houses already exist. Most are made illegal by zoning bylaws. There are about 100,000 of these apartments in communities across Ontario, including an estimated 1,500 in London, 1,500 in Thunder Bay, 10,000 in Hamilton and 14,000 in North York. The issue now is how to make them healthy and safe for the people who live there. That's a major purpose of the legislation.

A recent survey asked Ontarians whether they favoured or opposed apartments in houses. Fully 70% of those asked said they favoured it. It's clear that both tenants and home owners want and need this form of affordable housing. Apartments in houses increase the supply of affordable housing at little or no cost to the taxpayers of Ontario, and apartments in houses can also save all taxpayers money by making better use of existing services such as public transit.

This type of housing intensification makes financial sense. In many older neighbourhoods, our services have a much greater capacity than we now use, as the number of people in an average household has decreased. We see increasing numbers of empty nesters and family households with fewer children than ever before. For example, over the last 30 years, the average size of the Ontario household has dropped from 3.7 to 2.6 persons per household.

With this legislation, tenants of these apartments would be able to determine if their homes met necessary health and safety codes without fear of eviction simply because of zoning bylaws, and the legislation would boost the enforcement powers of municipalities. Critics of the legislation would like to continue ignoring the problem of 100,000 existing apartments in houses, most made illegal because of zoning bylaws. The risk to health and safety of the people who live in these apartments is too great to continue neglecting them.

Au cours de l'été, mon collègue le ministre des Affaires municipales, Dave Cooke, et moi avons recueilli les commentaires de près de 300 administrations municipales, organismes ou particuliers. À la suite de ces consultations, nous avons apporté certains changements à la réglementation, et c'est cette nouvelle version que nous vous présentons aujourd'hui.

First, we've included regulation-making power to allow areas on private sewage services to be exempted from these provisions. This is in response to concerns raised by members such as Kimble Sutherland, the MPP for Oxford, and by a number of municipalities.

Second, we are exploring the possibility of putting standards concerning apartments in houses under the Ontario building and fire codes. This should avoid duplication and speed up enforcement. This is in response to suggestions by municipal building and fire officials.

Third, this government intends to fully explore the question, and the accompanying options and impacts, of which municipalities this legislation will apply to.

There is another major benefit to the legislation being introduced today. It provides greater flexibility for municipalities that wish to allow the creation of garden suites for people such as senior citizens or persons with disabilities. Garden suites are separate, self-contained units, typically located in the side or rear yard of an existing house.

Garden suites allow seniors to be close to their families while maintaining their own independent living space.

1410

We appreciate that there have been concerns with the legislation that may not have been addressed. But I want to point out that there will be opportunities, through the legislative process, for a continuing dialogue.

I'd like to welcome some of the people who support this proposal and have joined us in the members' gallery for this occasion. These people have worked hard over the years to have a government respond to the need to bring accessory apartments out into the open and make them safe: Members of INC, the Inclusive Neighbourhoods Campaign, including Marnie Hayes of Metro Tenant Legal Services, Dianne Urquhart, Michelle McCormick, Barb Jamieson and Bonnie Briggs; members of SOS, the Second Occupancy Steering Committee on Housing, including Lorraine Kattran and Doug Hum, and some home owners and tenants who own or live in an apartment in a house.

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): I am pleased to advise members of the House today of an important new policy directive for the selection and appointment of justices of the peace in Ontario.

Since becoming the Attorney General, I have tried to ensure that all justice of the peace appointments are made after an open and consultative process. This has included the advertising of vacancies and a review of applicants by community groups composed of members of the public, judges and lawyers.

Today I am pleased to announce that we have decided to expand this ad hoc procedure on a province-wide basis. Eight regional committees will be set up to make recommendations on the selection of justices of the peace. These committees will correspond to the eight judicial regions and will be based out of Brampton, Newmarket, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, London, Ottawa, Hamilton and Toronto.

It is my belief that an independent judiciary is enhanced by a public, open, community-based appointment system.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: By establishing these selection committees, we are ensuring fair and impartial appointments of justices of the peace and formalizing the selection process to include members of the public.

Our goal is to replace what many considered a system of patronage appointments with one that is fair, neutral and consistent, resulting in the best appointments possible.

As members of the House know, justices of the peace play an important role in the criminal justice system. Justices of the peace—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Order. Stop the clock, please. I ask the House to come to order. Minister.

Hon Mr Hampton: As I was saying before being interrupted, members of the House know justices of the peace play an important role in the criminal justice system.

Justices of the peace, or JPs, as they are commonly known, preside over the majority of cases in the provincial offences court. They conduct bail hearings, issue search warrants and oversee the laying of charges to be tried in our courts.

Each selection committee will be composed of a judge, a lawyer and three members of the public representing various community organizations. A member of the courts administration staff and a justice of the peace will also be members of the committee, but with a non-voting status.

Each committee will be responsible for screening, interviewing and recommending to the Attorney General appropriate candidates for appointments as JPs. The Attorney General will then nominate a candidate who will appear before the Justices of the Peace Review Council.

The committees will use standard criteria to ensure uniformity and consistency across the province. The criteria for appointment will be based on an individual's professional excellence in his occupation, outstanding personal characteristics and relevant social and community experience. In addition, those appointed as justices of the peace must represent the cultural and racial diversity of this province. Not only will the new selection process encourage greater community participation, but it will mean uniform standards across the province.

As members of the Legislature can see, the establishment of these publicly dominated selection committees is another step in ensuring that the justice system continues to be accountable to the people of this province. This selection process will ensure that the best and most qualified people are called upon to serve their communities as justices of the peace.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LEGISLATION

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions): I rise today to announce a major review of Ontario's financial services legislation. This review will help the government to streamline regulation and improve the efficiency, growth and stability of the financial services sector in Ontario.

The financial services sector is of vital importance to the Ontario economy. It is a major employer and a significant consumer of information technology and professional support services. The sector plays a key role in financing economic growth, development and renewal in this province. The financial services sector is a strong, stable element of the economy. It has remained so through a period of dramatic change, change which is continuing.

The sector has traditionally been characterized as the four separate pillars of banking, trust and loan, securities and insurance. This characterization is no longer accurate. The range of products and services is expanding while institutions with historical roots in different pillars are competing head to head with each other. The description of four pillars also does not recognize the role played by other institutions such as credit unions and caisses populaires.

We are launching a far-reaching review of the ways in which we regulate this sector in light of the continuing evolution of the financial services marketplace. Current regulatory requirements often duplicate each other. For example, Ontario's loan and trust legislation contains a

provision commonly known as equals. Equals requires all trusts wishing to operate in Ontario, no matter where they are incorporated, to abide by Ontario's rules. Equals applies to their operations both within Ontario and outside of Ontario.

Our review will draw upon the benefits of reforms undertaken in other jurisdictions and the extensive body of analytical materials on this subject to adopt our own set of first principles for the sector. We are prepared to examine all creative options and make fundamental changes to the government's role.

On the key issues of solvency and consumer protection, we are prepared to consider significant changes in roles and responsibilities. However, this will only be feasible if other, more efficient mechanisms can be put in place to ensure fairness and solvency.

There are a number of issues particular to each pillar which require attention, as well as many cross-pillar issues. One of the goals of the financial services review is to identify mechanisms, not necessarily governmental, which will empower consumers to protect their own interests in the marketplace. Consumers have very legitimate expectations which must be met as change occurs. Ontario's financial services statutes were developed in and for their times. Each statute and its supporting regulations presented appropriate regulatory structures given industry conditions in those times, and each continues to provide strong depositor and policyholder protection.

The rapidly changing financial services environment, however, has given rise to new issues and to new pressures. Because of their different regulatory approaches and legislative history, Ontario's statutes vary in their effectiveness in responding to these current market changes.

1420

The financial services review will be undertaken with a number of objectives:

Consumer protection: The interests of the consumer in sound, stable financial institutions and in a fair marketplace are foremost in our minds. In fact, the confidence of consumers is essential to the efficient operation of markets. As the financial services marketplace becomes more complex, consumers must be able to take advantage of new products and services and to have the means to protect their interests.

We are aware of the federal government's establishment of a committee to review deposit insurance. We will be seeking to play a role in this review.

Regulatory streamlining: As was stressed in the last throne speech, the regulatory system must be streamlined. Issues of regulatory overlap, duplication and inconsistent standards, particularly in the loan and trust industry, will be addressed.

A level playing field: Ontario financial institutions—credit unions, caisses populaires, loan and trust firms, insurers and others—need sufficient scope to compete in the financial services market and to take advantage of market developments. Legislation and regulations which may have been appropriate for different times and circumstances may now unfairly restrict Ontario companies from becoming full participants in the financial services market.

Economic renewal: Ontario's financial services sector needs a modern regulatory system to strengthen the sector's ability to fulfil its role in the economic renewal of Ontario. A strong, competitive financial services sector is vital to a strong, productive and expanding economy.

The financial services review will be the most comprehensive examination of Ontario's financial services sector ever undertaken in this province. Over the next several weeks my ministry will be issuing a series of discussion documents intended as a focus for detailed consultations, including the report of the insurance legislative review project, a guide to consultations in the loan and trust area and the report of the credit union and caisses populaires legislative review committee.

New credit union and caisses populaires legislation is needed in Ontario, and we intend to move expeditiously in this area. We will work closely with the financial services sector, with consumers, with users of capital, with professional groups and with all interested parties. We want their experience, their knowledge and their help in framing the issues and shaping the solutions.

We intend to take a broad sectoral approach. However, some work is in progress and other activity is further advanced. There are also some issues which are more pressing than others. Rather than waiting for the complete review to be completed, I will be introducing legislation as it is required and as it is completed. I do not want the process to hold up action.

And while the differentiation between the pillars is not as clear as it once was, there may be issues which require different approaches in their application to different institutions. Again, I do not intend to allow the process of review to hinder appropriate policy responses.

Working together, I am confident that we can succeed in putting into place a regulatory framework which protects consumers and encourages the industry to grow and to innovate.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Responses, official opposition.

ACCESSORY APARTMENTS

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I would like to respond to the statement by the Minister of Housing on accessory apartments. The minister said in the last line of her statement, "There will be opportunities throughout the legislative process for an ongoing dialogue."

The problem is, we don't trust the minister, because she has shown that she may want a dialogue, but she certainly does not want to listen. The so-called consultation on this particular issue is a case in point. The draft legislation was announced in June, with only two months, July and August, for consultation.

I'll ask the minister, exactly what kind of public meetings did you think were going to be held in the dead of summer? What ratepayers' groups, what tenants' groups, what meetings of council were you going to get in the dead of summer to debate this legislation and talk about it in a meaningful way?

AMO asked for an extension past the August 31 deadline. You denied that. You say you consulted with the

municipalities. The municipalities deny that. They say you did not listen to their concerns, and the draft legislation reflected it.

Madam Minister, this reminds me of the consultation during Bill 121, when, before the deadline for the consultation was even reached, we learned that the Ministry of Housing had completed its second draft of the legislation. You had made up your mind you were proceeding, regardless of what the public said or thought.

I think what you don't realize is that many people in this Legislature agree with the principles of intensification and we believe that tenants in basement apartments deserve protection under the law and that they are entitled to it.

What we don't agree with is the way in which you have gone about this. You have a made-in-Queen's-Park policy which you are ramming down the municipalities' throats, instead of asking for their cooperation and working with the municipalities and giving them incentives and listening to their concerns and addressing them. Instead of that, you decided to ram it down their throats with legislation.

I have talked to people in London, Guelph, Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo and Timmins, and I can tell you that they do not appreciate the fact that you have taken away the authority of their municipal governments, that you have not tried to cooperate with them.

Why don't you listen to the people when they are telling you, "We like the principle, but we do not like the way in which you are doing this"? Minister, please change your mind.

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): The Attorney General has established eight regional advisory committees to deal with the lowest-level judicial office, with the public appointee being appointed by the Attorney General. This is intended to help ensure the independence of the judiciary.

One can only refer to the Attorney General's shallow standard of independence on this type of issue when he permits Emily Carasco, a nominated NDP candidate, to continue as chair of the independent Ontario Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee.

Real, substantive issues are being ignored by this Minister of Inertia. We see meltdown of the legal aid clinics across this province. We see access to justice being denied to the disadvantaged across the province.

If the Attorney General doesn't believe the opposition, he should listen to the executive directors of the legal aid clinics across the province, who are saying the same thing. The administration of the courts is close to meltdown, and if he doesn't believe the opposition, he should listen to Chief Justice Frank Callaghan, who publicly states that the administration of the courts is a threat to justice in this province.

With these serious problems, the minister is tinkering with this type of announcement. Shame on him.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LEGISLATION

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): With the 40 seconds that I'm allowed, I'd like to quickly respond to the statement made by the Minister of Financial Institutions.

We in the opposition will be very closely watching the process that the minister has announced. We will be watching for the success of the process.

In our review of such a field, we would also want to look into the effects that this would have on consumer protection, regulatory streamlining, a level playing field and economic renewal. We will be judging the success of this review on how this review affects the very four points that the minister outlined.

ACCESSORY APARTMENTS

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I particularly want to address the statement made by the Minister of Housing that, over the objections of virtually every municipality, she plans to bring in legislation that will automatically allow every single family dwelling to become a duplex or a two-family dwelling.

While the Association of Municipalities of Ontario agreed with the objective, agreed with the intensification and was supportive of the 1989 housing policy statement that was passed under the authority of section 3 of the Planning Act, 1983, that required municipalities to establish housing intensification policies, it suggested to the minister that rather than usurp what is a municipal authority, rather than come in in a very authoritative way and without any criteria of sewer, water, garbage, capability for decent parks, capability for policing, capability for libraries, for schools, capability for any of these, rather than ignore all that, she should allow it to work with the guidelines of 1989, to work towards intensification within the Planning Act, within the bounds of good planning.

We soundly condemn the minister, the cabinet, the Premier, the NDP government, for telling people that the only way to give them protection for basement apartments is our heavy-handed legislative way, because that not only isn't the only way, it is 100% the worst way.

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The way to proceed, to not throw away all the official plans, to not say to all the planners of the province, to not say to every municipality, basically, "Why are you wasting hundreds of millions of dollars in proper planning?" in making sure that when an apartment is built, that when a single-family home becomes a duplex, when a basement apartment becomes legalized—and there is another process for that—we will want to ensure that the proper facilities are there for those families that will live in that apartment—

You have abandoned all of that with this silly piece of legislation, and you, Madam Minister, have totally misled all the people in Ontario who were counting on you to bring forward a comprehensive, sound way of doing this by saying this is the only way. We condemn you for that.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Stop the clock.

I understand full well the members' concern. I listened carefully, and the term "misled" was not applied to the members of the House. It is a term which evokes a response when it's used—I realize that—and it's not helpful sometimes, but it is not out of order.

The member for Willowdale with his response.

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I'm responding to the statement of the Attorney General, this revolutionary statement that says how he's going to now pick justices of the peace. Well, let me tell him, they've been doing this for the last year. There's nothing revolutionary about these criteria. But listen to this: They're going to advertise—boy, that's revolutionary. They're going to pick people of professional excellence—well, that's very revolutionary. They're going to pick people with outstanding personal characteristics—that's revolutionary. And they're going to pick people with relevant experience. Well, if those are the criteria they use for justices of the peace, they couldn't be elected a government on those criteria.

Now, in terms of patronage, all the senior positions are filled. I guess now we're going to start working on the rank-and-file level.

But, you know, in April of 1992, the Law Times indicates, dealing with training, that training for justices of the peace is not mandatory. I don't see anything about mandatory training in here. Isn't that what this is really all about? I might point out that justices of the peace, who have no legal training, are still dealing with bail hearings dealing with sexual offenders and murderers. Surely the Attorney General could deal with some of the aspects of this that are relevant and important instead of burying his head in the sand.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LEGISLATION

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): To Mr Charlton, the minister, I would say quickly that on the front burner of this statement that you made you should talk about the solvency issue. That's the biggest issue facing the people in the province of Ontario today. Yes, there is some blurring involved in financial institutions, but when you come up here today and suggest to them that you're going to open a dialogue, a consultative dialogue, they don't believe you, because a consultative dialogue to this government means a consultative monologue: You talk, they listen.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member's time has expired. Point of order, the member for Mississauga West.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, you would note that today in ministers' statements there were three ministers who made statements, and yet we sit here day after day after day with no statements coming from any ministers of this government. What they've managed to do is to bring out three statements in one day and allow us only five minutes. The critic for our party got 40 seconds to respond to Minister Charlton. The critic here got 15 seconds. That's absurd.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to put an additional five minutes on the clock to allow for—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): It is perfectly in order to ask for unanimous consent to add five minutes to the clock. Do we have unanimous consent?

Interjections.

The Speaker: I will ask the question again. Do we have unanimous consent? Agreed? Agreed. Five minutes will be added to the clock.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LEGISLATION

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): I want to take this time that has been offered to us. I'm just wondering if my colleagues are going to share it with me, so I'll take a couple of more minutes to make some comments on the statements that have been made by the Minister of Financial Institutions.

I want to say very clearly that the government has a serious credibility problem when it comes to the Legislature and is going to announce to any sector of the people of Ontario, or any groups or individuals, as a matter of fact, that it is going to consult with them. They have not demonstrated over the past two years that they are capable of consultation. They have not demonstrated over the past two years that they're capable of listening. They have not demonstrated over the past two years that they're capable of putting practical ideas ahead of their own preconceived notions.

I say this very clearly to the minister because what he wants to consult about is very important. He wants to use this consultation process as a tool to change how we're going to deal with many of our regulatory rules on financial institutions, financial systems, financial planning and financial renewal. If there is a province in Canada that needs financial renewal, it has to be the province of Ontario. This province certainly needs financial renewal.

When we hear from the minister that he wants to consult about consumer protection, we want to consult with him but we want to make sure that he's listening to the consumers. When you say that you want to consult about regulatory streamlining, we want to work with you but we want to also make sure that if you're talking about streamlining that's exactly what we're going to get and not more bureaucratic socialist red tape.

If you're going to talk and consult with the people about creating a level playing field for the credit unions, for the caisses populaires, for the loan and trust firms, we want to work with you, because this is exactly the type of reform that is needed in this province and that the people are looking for.

Finally, the minister has in fact mentioned economic renewal. I touched on that subject earlier in my comments. I'd like to turn over the last two minutes and 20 seconds to my colleagues.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I'd like to comment for just a couple of minutes to raise a couple of things.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Come on, give Dianne a break. Free the back bench.

Mr Elston: In fairness, the member for Eglinton did have some time.

I want to add a couple of interesting pieces of information about this new study of our regulatory situation with respect to financial institutions.

Financial institutions have been under study in regulatory form for some time. I was there and we went through a whole series of studies. My understanding of where we are at is that there can be some steps taken but they must be taken in concert with other provinces. It is clear that the very issues about which the member for Hamilton Mountain speaks—

Hon Mr Laughren: What's wrong with what Remo said? You did a good job, Remo. You don't need this.

Mr Elston: I'm sorry; I can't understand what these guys have wrong with them today, sir.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): As opposed to yesterday?

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Just today, Murray?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Elston: They're using up my time. There is nothing that can be done except in concert with all of the other jurisdictions that regulate financial institutions in this country. We did a great deal, Madam Minister from Ottawa Centre. That person over there hasn't done her homework. What's more, every time they attempt to criticize our record they belittle the knowledge that they should have after over two years of activity in government. If they were able to grow in their jobs, then they'd understand what was happening.

An announcement of another study of financial institutions is not enough. It is not enough in terms of studying. They must coordinate the efforts across the country. That is made somewhat more difficult—the minister knows that—because of our situation or circumstances as a result of money; not in this case developed by him as his problem, but a problem with which he must wrestle.

His regulatory study, his streamlining, his whole thing, will now depend on the goodwill between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia, the province of Alberta and otherwise, because when he does something with the regulatory system in Ontario, he touches all of those other jurisdictions. He knows it even if the Treasurer doesn't.

1440

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Mr Speaker, to briefly elaborate, the difficulty this government is faced with is that it's common knowledge that it is not in favour of breaking down the interprovincial trade barriers. That's one aspect of a healthier and more vibrant economy.

There is no doubt, when you're going to deal with this type of language or consultation, you're going to have to develop a nationwide policy with respect to regulations. It has to be the same across the country.

This is the kind of thing that must be consulted with in the four pillars. When they go out to discuss with these four groups, the banks, the insurance companies, the trust companies and the brokers, the difficulty is that they frankly don't trust this government. They're going to go out and consult with a group of people who have very little if any trust.

Why don't they have trust? Because they've dealt with them in the past in these consultative dialogues—the insurance industry etc. They know these consultative dialogues turn into consultative monologues. Your definition of consultation is, "We'll tell you what to do and then you stand up in public and agree with us." If they don't agree with them, tough on them.

A perfect example is the labour legislation, Bill 40. The business community doesn't agree with them; tough on them. There was no consultation. There was no consultation with respect to insurance; tough on them.

Quite frankly, you can tell me all you want that you're going to go out and dialogue with these people. They simply don't trust you, and I don't blame them.

ACCESSORY APARTMENTS

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I want to comment just briefly on the statement made by Minister of Housing. The Metropolitan Toronto syndrome seems to be applying right across the province of Ontario with regard to the announcement she made today.

She talked about consultation. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, this government has no idea what consultation is and it never has. They've never consulted with people. We've seen what has gone on with regard to the construction industry. We've looked at what has gone on with county restructuring. There's no consultation.

When I go to Penetanguishene, we have two or three subdivisions sitting there ready to be approved. They're not approved because the infrastructure is not there, and now you say to them, "You can put apartments in every house." How can you put an apartment in every house when you haven't got the facilities to use up what's there? You're all off base.

The village of Coldwater and the village of Elmvale are in the same position. They're ready for subdivisions to go ahead and you're saying now, "You can put an apartment in every house." Consultation is not there at all.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): You're worried about the rural; I'm worried about the municipalities around Toronto. The municipalities are going to have all the responsibility and none of the control. What's going to happen with parking? What's going to happen with someone who rents out part of his house and then gets moved to another place? How then can he kick the people out? Where are the rights of the property owner in that case?

What we're seeing you do, as minister, is not listen to the total scene. You've got the Association of Municipalities of Ontario saying, "Come on, Minister, look at some of the concerns we have in trying to run our municipalities." You're ending up putting a good look on something, but the fact is, the people out there are not going to be well served by these announcements by this minister.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I'd also like to say something on this new housing announcement we just got. We have people like Ruth Grier and David Cooke who come into our riding of Grey and tell us that we can't plan, that they can do all the planning for us. They take away our planning rights, then they approve something like this which takes away the planning rights of the municipalities.

I can't understand how they can be like this. To me, this is the most hypocritical thing I've ever heard. Both those ministers are hypocrites for coming into Grey county and telling us that we can't plan—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Grey will please take his seat. The member for Grey will know that he uttered an unparliamentary word. I would ask him to please withdraw it.

Mr Murdoch: I'll withdraw the word, Mr Speaker, because I have 55 seconds.

These two ministers came into Grey county and told Grey county it did not know how to plan. "We're going to take over your planning and show you how to do it." Then they come along with a statement like this that takes away all local planning. This is not proper, and I tell you that these two ministers were both hypocrites to agree with something like this.

The Speaker: To the member for Grey, I ask him to please withdraw the term, and furthermore, to please resist the temptation of using it again. Would the member please withdraw the unparliamentary remark.

Mr Murdoch: I'll withdraw it for this time, but maybe later on we'll talk about it.

The Speaker: Oh, that's helpful.

ORAL QUESTIONS

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): In the absence of both the Premier and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, I will direct my first question to the Minister of Labour. Minister, today—

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Where is he?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Come on, where's little Eddy?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Where's Waldo?

The Speaker: Would the leader take her seat, please. Interjections.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs McLeod: As I indicated, I will direct this question to the Minister of Labour in the absence of both the Premier and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Minister, I realize you are certainly not responsible for industry in the province, but I would ask whether or not you are clearly aware that once again today we've been confronted by the evidence of the weak state of the economy of this province, that in September business bankruptcies in this province alone topped 400, which was up 74% from this time last year, and that Ontario continues to lead Canada in total bankruptcies.

In Ottawa, Gandalf is laying off 60 people. In Thunder Bay, Abitibi-Price will permanently close one of its plants and it plans to sell or close a second one. But your government, which says its first priority is jobs, is pushing ahead with your Bill 40 which will kill even more jobs. Today you have business groups that have camped out in front of

the Premier's office with 50,000 letters, Minister, all telling you to stop Bill 40.

Minister, once again we ask, why will you not listen to what people are telling you about what this bill is going to do to industry and to jobs in this province? Why won't you stop your bill before our economy is harmed even more?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I think in terms of the financial situation we're in, nobody is more aware of it than this party and nobody is more concerned with what's happening in the province of Ontario. It seems to me that some people seem to conveniently forget things like the free trade agreement, the GST and a number of other issues that have caused us real problems.

But I do want to tell the member that we are doing what we can to respond to this current situation. This province is doing more in terms of training workers. We've done more in terms of setting up labour adjustment committees. We are doing more in terms of trying to find new means of investment capital in the province of Ontario.

The entire direction of this government is to try and meet the kinds of economic circumstances that we now have and some of the financial mess we inherited from the party across the way.

Mrs McLeod: Even in the absence of the Premier, the minister uses exactly the same line the Premier would use if he were here: "Blame everybody else. It's a worldwide recession. What can I possibly do about it?" Clearly, neither the minister nor the Premier understands the link between what's happening to the economy of this province and this government's own policies and this minister's own Bill 40, and that's the message we keep trying to get across. The Premier's decided that the way—

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): An election.

The Speaker: The member for Guelph, come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the leader take her seat and the member for Durham Centre take his seat as well. All I can do is to ask members of the House to exercise some restraint so that we can conduct a proper question period.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): They're wasting our time.

The Speaker: Would the member for Oriole please come to order. The Leader of the Opposition.

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Mrs McLeod: Thank you again, Mr Speaker. The Premier's only response to the desperate state of the economy in this province is to tell us that he is now off to Asia to talk to companies like Toyota to tell them that it's safe to invest in Ontario. If the Premier were to stay in the province long enough, he might notice that Toyota is also in Cambridge and he could talk to Toyota there, or the Premier might meet with Dare Foods in Kitchener to ask why Bill 40 stopped it from opening a new plant in this province, or he might go and talk to Long Manufacturing in Mississauga and it could tell him why the company wants to open a new plant in Michigan instead of here. These are

the people this minister and his Premier need to sit down with to understand what they're doing to the economy of this province.

Minister, do you not agree that if jobs were really your Premier's and your government's number one priority, the Premier should stay here and meet with these Ontario businesses to hear their concerns about Bill 40 and not leave the country next week when your bill becomes law?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I think it's very clear that the Premier's trip to the Far East is not leaving because of Bill 40. I can tell the member that it seems to me to make some sense, in the tough economic circumstances we're in, to do what we can to build some bridges with the Pacific Rim countries. That's certainly one of the things he's doing.

Some of the other things he's doing and this government is doing are the things I mentioned in terms of investment, in terms of training, in terms of new initiatives in the labour field. They're all important issues we're dealing with. I think some of the work at both Algoma and Kapuskasing is a classic example of that. We are making efforts to find new ways of dealing with the problems we face in Ontario.

Mrs McLeod: Minister, the link is clear; I only wish we could somehow make you see it. You pass Bill 40 and we are going to lose jobs in this province. You pass Bill 40 and there's no point in the Premier going anywhere to try to convince people that it makes sense to invest in this province.

Minister, the United States is going to use Bill 40 as a way of attracting companies to move out of the province. Investment newsletters are already saying Bill 40 offers another good reason for business to expand anywhere but here. Companies are saying they will move out of this province if you pass this bill. Minister, will you not end this ideological insanity and stop this bill?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I think it's unfortunate that the kind of scaremongering tactics of the opposition are what's coming across. The scare tactics in turn can be to some extent self-fulfilling, and I think there's more problem with the kind of questions we're getting from the leader of the official opposition than there is with what we're doing with Bill 40.

Bill 40, I can tell you, is an attempt to use effectively in the province of Ontario one of our most valuable resources, and that's workers in the province of Ontario, and involve them in the tough fight we've got economically in this province.

Finally, I very rarely refer to any articles, but there's at least a useful one in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, and it certainly indicates the difference in—what was it, the "ballistic approach" they can't understand in BC in their province that's happening here in the province of Ontario? I think what we're doing in terms of the labour legislation in this province is going to tie in and make much more effective the involvement of workers in the province of Ontario.

LAYOFFS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): My question is for the Premier, who as usual is not here to answer questions, or for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who's not here, so I'll direct it to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

Mr Treasurer, in December of last year you'll recall that I warned the Premier and other members of the cabinet that General Motors was about to make a major announcement of job losses in North America, and that many of the jobs in Canada and specifically in Ontario would be vulnerable as a result, including the jobs, and I mentioned this specifically, at the foundry and the engine plant in St Catharines.

Unfortunately, on February 24 of this year General Motors announced that it was closing the foundry in St Catharines—that's 2,300 jobs—and that it was discontinuing one of the lines in the engine plant, another 150 jobs in addition to the 750 jobs that would already be lost as a result of an indefinite layoff.

Will the Treasurer, as, I guess, the spokesperson for this government, assure the House that his government will not be caught asleep at the switch when the next announcement is made by General Motors about closings in North America, and will he assure the House that the Ontario government will not pursue policies which will discourage General Motors from keeping its operations going here in the Ontario and keeping those jobs for people in various communities in our province?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I don't really appreciate being third on the list of ministers to whom the member wants to ask a question, but I'll try.

The member for St Catharines would know, more than most would understand, the problems General Motors has been having all across North America. This is not an Ontario-based problem that General Motors is having, it's worldwide, and it's been highly publicized, not just in Ontario but everywhere.

Having said that, I want to reassure the member for St Catharines that we have a very senior person working on the problem, because we know it's not something we can dismiss or take lightly. The automobile industry is still the most important industry in this province and we intend to do whatever we can to not only retain the existing jobs in the auto sector, but to attract new ones, and to be fair, we've had some success in attracting new investment from the automobile sector as well.

Mr Bradley: There have been a lot of ominous developments the member is aware of within the GM corporation. We see that there has been a purge of Robert Stempel and the other senior officials from General Motors, and I quote from a Globe and Mail article that suggests:

"The immediate task of the new crew will be to slash costs at the biggest US auto manufacturer, and GM executives are bracing for what one official called a probable 'blood-letting.'

"The moves are aimed at giving the new leadership a loyal group of executives that will implement the board's

accelerated timetable for restructuring. Industry leaders have indicated that they think that Mr Smale, who is probably going to be the new chairman, will certainly be moving at a faster restructuring of the money-losing company. 'I think this new guy's going to come out swinging,' said John Caines, who is the president of the CAW union in Oshawa."

In view of the fact that we have lost 3,000 jobs in St Catharines already and that this news does not bode well for the people of St Catharines, would you tell us what specific plans—and I'm talking about specific plans in this case—the Premier has to persuade GM to reverse its decision to close the foundry in St Catharines and to retain all of its other operations in Ontario, since it seems to be the case that the one in Quebec is safe from a cut?

Hon Mr Laughren: The member for St Catharines asks a most appropriate question, it seems to me, keeping in mind that General Motors holds in very high regard the province of Ontario and in particular its skilled workforce. That was reflected in their decision to retain the jobs in Oshawa, which was announced fairly recently, among other decisions they've made.

But in dealing specifically with the problem to which the member now refers, the member would recall that the former Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, Mr Armstrong, is on this very day, I believe, the member for St Catharines-Brock informs me, meeting with General Motors to talk about a number of problems. So I think we're not sitting back simply waiting for shoes to fall, if you will, but rather being more proactive in encouraging General Motors to retain its investments—as a matter of fact to put new investments in the province—because it understands as well as any private sector operation the very highly skilled, committed workforce we have in this province.

Mr Bradley: One of the problems is that this is a most recent development. The development of Tim Armstrong's involvement came only after the Premier came to the city of St Catharines speaking as though he was the president of General Motors rather than the Premier of this province. He was chastised by Buzz Hargrove and others within the CAW.

1500

General Motors announced in December that some 74,000 jobs would be cut in North America. I count about 14,000 of those jobs cut already. That leaves about 60,000 still to go, with the GM corporate decision likely to be made in the near future, perhaps as soon as next week or next month. Will the Treasurer persuade the Premier of the province, the man with the most power, with the most influence in Ontario, to abandon his latest foreign excursion to the Far East and to stay home to fight for the jobs of General Motors workers in Ontario?

Hon Mr Laughren: I believe the member for St Catharines is certainly correct, and it's appropriate that he's concerned about the jobs of workers in St Catharines and elsewhere in the province. I think, however, that he's being somewhat simplistic, which is not the way he normally is in this chamber, in his view that it's either/or. It's

not either stay here and fight for the jobs in Ontario or go to Asia and fight for new investment in jobs for Ontario there. I think that's being somewhat simplistic. There has never been a Premier in this province who didn't take his responsibility seriously, travel abroad and encourage investment in the province of Ontario.

Finally, I recognize whose responsibility it is ultimately, but I would encourage the member for St Catharines to send us any suggestions he might have as well.

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I wish to ask a question to the Premier. Obviously, as he's not here today, I can't do that.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): What else is new?

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): We'll mail it to him.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): We already used that line, Mike.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Harris: I know the Liberals used that line, but that was our secret meeting this morning, that we'd both use it. Don't you remember that?

Mr Sorbara: I don't get invited to those ones.

Mr Harris: Don't you inform the caucus of our secret meetings?

I'll ask the Treasurer a question. Last month, over 2,600 people and companies went bankrupt in Bob Rae's Ontario. That means thousands of men and women no longer have a job. Many have lost their homes. Many have lost their life savings. Many have lost their dreams. Do you have a plan to stop this devastating trend?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The member is correct; there have been a lot of job losses in Ontario, as elsewhere. When I look at the job losses in Ontario since this recession began, it is more serious in this jurisdiction than others, going back a couple of years. As a matter of fact, about 80% of the job losses in Canada have been in Ontario.

I haven't heard any fairminded or objective person put the blame for that on the government that was elected in the fall of 1990. I think people understand that the recession is not simply here. Competing jurisdictions have had very similar problems to the ones we are having in Ontario. If the member wants, I could give him some statistics on that. However, the leader of the third party asked me—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: If the backbenchers from the third party would allow me to answer their leader's question, I will attempt to do so, but they don't seem to want me to do that.

The leader of the third party asked me specifically if we have a plan. We not only have a plan, we have several of them. If we are going to address the problems of the recession seriously, it seems to me there are two levels where we must do so. One, we must deal with the immedi-

ate problem of job losses, in almost a cyclical way, the way it's been done in the past. We've moved that way through the anti-recession program and through the Jobs Ontario programs this year.

In terms of the long run, what I think the leader of the third party is getting at is the long-term economic plan that will get us out of this recession in a healthier way than would otherwise be the case.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Laughren: We do indeed have a longer-term economic plan, but the Speaker will insist that I put that into my supplementary answer.

Mr Harris: Treasurer, in response to the question, you indicate that the problem is far worse in Ontario than any other jurisdiction. I agree. There is one thing different in this jurisdiction than in other jurisdictions, one thing different in Ontario than there is in the other nine provinces. The other nine don't have Bob Rae as Premier. We have Bob Rae as Premier here in Ontario, we have Floyd Laughren as Treasurer. They don't. Doesn't that tell you something, Mr Treasurer, that your plans, different from all other nine provinces, are the reason for the problem here in this province?

During the 16 days that Bob Rae plans to gallivant across the Far East, 1,300 more bankruptcies are likely to occur here in Ontario. Treasurer, we obviously need a different plan from the one you've been trying to implement for the last two years, because it's not working. In fact, it's working worse than all the other nine provinces, according to your own admission to me.

A year ago I offered you a series of different solutions, a series of different directions. Obviously, your taxing more and spending more is making the problem worse. Will you now admit that and adopt some of the policies I gave you in *New Directions*: cut taxes, leave more money in the hands of families, consumers and businesses? I assure you, Treasurer, they'll create more jobs than you are.

Hon Mr Laughren: The leader of the third party is on his feet demanding we cut taxes. He has a belief that if we cut taxes, that will stimulate economic growth and in the end we'll all be more prosperous. That's his belief. That's the same belief Ronald Reagan had in 1980, and in the subsequent eight years the deficit in the United States tripled. I don't think that's the answer here; the same leader of the third party would be on his feet beating us up because of the size of the deficit in Ontario. The member cannot have it both ways. He can't expect us to reduce revenues in the province and at the same time get our deficit down.

To put it in perspective with other jurisdictions, I would remind the leader of the third party—

Mr Harris: You're the one who said we're worse hit.

Hon Mr Laughren: I said that in this country, because Ontario is the manufacturing heartland of Canada, we have suffered more of the layoffs than other provinces have. That's what I was trying to convey to the leader of the third party. In competing—

Mr Harris: It's because they're leaving here and going to other provinces. That's the problem.

Hon Mr Laughren: That's not true.

Mr Harris: It is true.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: The leader of the third party is suggesting that the manufacturing jobs that have been lost here are moving to Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. That is absolutely ridiculous. The employment in other jurisdictions with economies similar to that of Ontario, such as Massachusetts and New York, has fallen 8% between 1988 and 1992. The decline in retail sales in Massachusetts and Ohio was 9.9% in Massachusetts and 9.2% in Ohio. Housing starts fell 72.7% in Massachusetts and only 68% in Ontario, which is high nevertheless.

The leader of the third party should stop pretending that it's the policies of this government that have caused the recession. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Laughren: This government, as a matter of fact, has preserved essential services that other jurisdictions would not have done if the Premier wasn't the Premier he is.

Mr Harris: The Treasurer says that my plan to cut taxes won't work, that his plan to hike both taxes and the deficit is the plan that'll work. But by any measure, Ontario is worse off today, Ontario is worse off every day that goes by that you and your government and your cabinet and your plan are in office in this province.

Since the last trip the Premier took to the Far East in May, we have lost nearly 40,000 jobs in Ontario. Over 10,000 more people are on welfare. This was the bonanza we reaped from his last Asian trip.

1510

One of the few things that will be different in Ontario from the time of last Asian trip to this one is that we will now have the most repressive job- and investment-killing labour legislation in North America. Treasurer, given that you've got the same economic framework as when he went away last time and now you've got Bill 40 on top of it, what's your estimate of how many jobs will be lost, how many more will be on welfare, and how many more bankruptcies we'll have following this trip to Asia?

Hon Mr Laughren: If the Premier of this province were not moving around and visiting investors in Asia and other places, the leader of the third party and the leader of the official opposition would be the first ones on their feet complaining that he seemed to be here in Ontario and didn't want to go out and encourage investment from other parts of the world. Nothing could be sillier. For the leader of the third party to try to draw some kind of link between encouraging investment from other parts of the world and the fact that there are layoffs here is simply ludicrous.

I know the leader of the third party doesn't like any kind of progressive labour legislation; I understand that. He would rather we had labour legislation that drove us all back into the Stone Age than to bring anything progressive at all to the working people in the province of Ontario. That's simply not on the agenda of this government, and it never will be.

Mr Harris: I wonder if the Treasurer could find me one potential investor who, when he meets Bob Rae and hears his agenda, thinks Ontario is a better place to invest. You would do a much better job if you hid the Premier, if he never went abroad—

The Speaker: Is this your new question?

Mr Harris: —if he never talked to investors, if he never talked to those potential plant-builders and job-creators. Then you'd have a better chance.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My second question, however, is to the Minister of Labour. I have here a flyer which was distributed to the members of the Legislature, "Beware of Ministry of Labour Mismanagement," talking about training. It charges that since you took over as Minister of Labour, approval time for an application and training proposal has gone from six weeks to 34 weeks in the Transitions program.

This is the program that gives people a chance to get off social assistance. As you destroy more and more jobs and more and more people go on social assistance, this is the program that gives them a chance to get off social assistance by teaching them new skills. Is this kind of program so unimportant to you that you've allowed it to be this badly mismanaged?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): No. This is a good program and one we're concerned with. I notice that the people who put the leaflet out didn't have the guts to put any identification, who printed it or where they got their information from. Can the leader of the third party tell me why he uses that kind of material?

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): You'd phone the police on them. You'd get the OPP on them.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The leader of the third party with his supplementary.

Mr Harris: By way of supplementary to the minister, I suppose they didn't identify themselves because you do call the police whenever they try to get information into the public's hands.

However, what they have repeated here is contained in a memo dated October 20, 1992, from the Ontario Ministry of Labour: "Dear Trainers." It's the same information, 34 weeks. It's signed by your ministry: "Anthea Pinkney, supervisor of Transitions for the Ontario Ministry of Labour." This flyer simply repeats what they were told by your own ministry.

Our businesses need skilled employees to survive. Older workers need new skills and training now. Our young people need new skills and training now. Your economic policies are forcing more of them out of work, more of them on to welfare, and now it's 34 weeks just to process an application. That is unacceptable.

Legislation which kills jobs, not creates them—Bill 40—that's your answer. You spend all your time on this. You've let programs suffer that could actually help jobs. I ask you again, what's more important to you as Minister of Labour, kowtowing to the union leadership or helping men

and women who want to work but who've been laid off and need the skills to get those jobs?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Let me say that if the leader of the third party had come up with the question without the information put out by somebody too gutless to put his name or address or any information on it, it would have been more—

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Mr Speaker, withdraw that word. Imagine calling employees gutless.

The Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat for a moment, please. Have you completed your response?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: No. I would just say that we have a Transitions program here in Ontario that's very good, that we added money to, that we added staff to, that we added resources from the labour adjustment program to and that now is fully used. It's once again a question of whether there can be more money found to extend the number of people we're covering, which is currently over 90,000 this year alone in the Transitions program.

Mr Harris: I do not know how calling civil servants of the province of Ontario gutless, how calling our people who are desperately trying to help people get the skills they require for jobs by their coming forward with this information, how calling them gutless is going to solve the problem. What that has to do with answering the question and the lack of leadership from the top, I do not know.

My caucus has now produced two volumes of New Directions aimed at getting Ontario back to work, giving Ontarians hope, giving Ontarians the skills they need to make our province competitive again. If a page will come forward and pick up this copy, let me send over to you a copy of the most recent edition put out by my caucus, A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario.

Minister, by next week you will have passed Bill 40 and you will have successfully jeopardized thousands more jobs in this province.

The Speaker: Does the leader have a supplementary?

Mr Harris: I've sent over and released last week my plan to try to equip Ontarians with the skills they need. Given that your plan is a disaster and has failed, will you adopt the plan and the proposals put forward by my critics and my caucus to help you get people the skills they need to get back to work?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: Just let me be very clear, because I think it's important that this be done: The misrepresentation was not from anybody in the ministry. It was leaflets put out by people who have not got the guts to put their names or addresses or information on them, and it was the use by the leader of the third party of that kind of information and research that was so inadequate it didn't even tell him, "We don't know who's done this, but go ahead and use it, whether you can verify it or not."

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Attorney General. The Premier has claimed that a letter from his constituency office, on his

letterhead, urging the speeding up of a hearing date, did not influence the Ontario Municipal Board. That is simply not the case. We have a letter from an OMB official which explicitly states that the hearing date was changed in response to requests. The very fact that such a letter is sent is in direct contravention of the Premier's own conflict-of-interest guidelines.

I have here a letter dated June 20, 1991, from the honourable Gregory Evans, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. It states:

"A minister is not an ordinary member of the Legislature. A minister always wears the cloak of ministerial responsibility, and there is no way in which correspondence under his or her signature can be considered by the recipient as other than correspondence from the minister. A minister is a minister is a minister."

1520

I ask the Attorney General, will you not admit that the Premier is not an ordinary member of the Legislature and that any correspondence sent from the Premier's office must carry great weight? Would you not admit that Judge Evans is right?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): The Leader of the Opposition returns to a question which the House has dealt with on a couple of occasions now.

Let me be clear on this matter. The conflict-of-interest guidelines are the Premier's conflict-of-interest guidelines. They are guidelines which every member of the government tries to recognize and tries to operate by.

In my view, this question has been answered on several occasions already in the House, that there is no conflict in this case. The member will recognize that virtually every member of this House will write to, for example, the Workers' Compensation Board, asking when a hearing may be held, and I see no conflict.

As I say, this question has been dealt with on several occasions in the past—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Hampton: —and I really believe the member is dealing with a dead horse.

Mrs McLeod: The Attorney General misses the point. I appreciate the fact that these guidelines are indeed the Premier's guidelines. I notice that he does not in fact deny that the letter the Premier's office wrote constitutes a violation of those guidelines.

But I would suggest that beyond the fact that the Premier has violated his own guidelines, he's also violated a fundamental principle that guarantees the independence of quasi-judicial bodies like the Ontario Municipal Board, the very independence that the Premier's guidelines were put in place to protect. These bodies are there to protect private citizens and to allow them to voice their objections to governmental action, free of political intervention. By voicing his strong support for the project, by urging the board to hurry up and deal with it, the Premier has violated the principle of non-interference and made it impossible for the board to maintain its independence.

Attorney General, you must protect the administration of justice in Ontario, and that includes preserving the principle of the independence of quasi-judicial bodies. Do you not believe that the Premier's guidelines are there to protect an important principle? As justice minister, do you not believe that quasi-judicial bodies should be allowed to operate free of political intervention? Therefore, do you not also believe that the Premier must refer his own violation of his own guidelines to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner?

Hon Mr Hampton: The Leader of the Opposition tries to dress up the question with several assumptions.

The fact of the matter is that members of this House from time to time will write to boards and agencies of the government, requesting information as to when a hearing may be held, requesting information as to what the procedures are for the setting down of hearings. When a letter such as that is written, it discloses no intention to influence the ultimate decision that the board makes. It simply requests information as to when a hearing may be held and if possibly hearings may be held at an earlier date.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Read the letter.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): It's inherent in the letter. Don't you understand influence?

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: There is no attempt, in my view, to interfere with the decision a board or commission ultimately makes. That is the gravamen of the case here. That's the issue. I think the member knows that there is no connection in terms of asking when a hearing date will be and attempting to influence the ultimate decision.

Mr Stockwell: He asked him to move it up.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): You had a responsibility as a non-partisan justice minister. You have just lost the authority to be the Attorney General in this province. Your responsibility goes beyond politics, and you have just lost it.

The Speaker: Would the member for York Centre please come to order.

Mr Sorbara: I certainly will, sir. He has lost the authority to be Attorney General. A political answer like that means a breach of his responsibility as the Attorney General of Ontario.

The Speaker: I ask the member for York Centre to please come to order. The member for Leeds-Grenville with his question.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is to the Solicitor General, and once again it concerns the continuing frustration of all Ontario police officers because the Solicitor General and the Premier refuse to address their concerns.

The Solicitor General was quoted in the media last night as saying he has been asked by the Premier to intervene in this matter. We understand that the Solicitor General has offered to meet with the Police Association of

Ontario. There's been no word on when that meeting might occur.

My party and I believe that a meeting between the government and the police association is necessary and that such a meeting may initiate a fair resolution to the job action of many police forces in Ontario. However, it's because of the government's failure to constructively communicate with all police officers that job actions are taking place.

Solicitor General, can you tell us today why the Premier wouldn't be included in this proposed meeting with the Police Association of Ontario and tell us why that meeting isn't being convened immediately?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): The member for Leeds-Grenville is in error. In fact, the meeting is not only being convened immediately; I've already convened it. It's announced that it will be held tomorrow morning in my offices at 10. I believe that will provide the kind of forum I have been requesting for some time, where principals can sit down in a common, rational and unemotional way and discuss the concerns that some individuals have with respect to regulations.

Mr Runciman: I appreciate that, and I believe it is going to be a helpful initiative. It's regrettable, though, that the Premier and the minister continue to refuse to meet with representatives of the Metro police association.

Some of my colleagues saw Mr Dudley Laws leaving the premises, the Premier's Office, around 6:30 last night. I raised this at the demonstration yesterday, Mr Minister, with respect to this individual who is well known in the Metro area. His views on policing are very negative; his views on policing are well known. This is an individual who is also under criminal charge. I have to ask you why someone like that has special access to this government when officers of the Metro association continue to face a stone wall in respect to a meeting with the Premier.

Hon Mr Pilkey: I have no knowledge of who was or was not in the building last night or who they did or did not meet with. I have no knowledge with respect to that. I leave that kind of speculation to the members opposite.

I would like to indicate, though, and unfortunately I was detained yesterday from responding to a similar question, that the Premier of this province has indicated to Mr Lymmer that his door was open to him. All he asked in return was that an improper job action be ceased, even if it were only for 48 hours.

The notion out of yesterday's question, and raised again today, is that the Premier has all the time in the world—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Premier's office, Premier's office.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mr Pilkey: —to meet with certain special-interest groups and minority groups but that he has no time to meet with the police officials. I want to tell you that not only is that not true, because by way of extension I, as the Solicitor General, responsible for policing matters of this province, meet on an ongoing and regular basis with police stakeholders, but I'm pleased to inform the members opposite that the Premier himself personally picked up the

phone, phoned Mr Lymer at home on Sunday afternoon and invited him personally to be in his office on Tuesday at 9. So the notion that he only speaks to this group or that group and ignores others is in fact not the case.

I think it's rather significant and telling that the Premier of a province would pick up a phone and phone somebody on a Sunday afternoon.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Pilkey: So he had that assurance that he was available to him.

1530

HOSPITAL SIGNS

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): What terms and conditions?

Mr Mills: No, I want to be quite fair. The minister is pretty handy at big problems, but I have a small one and I can't seem to get anywhere with it. I refer to the Memorial Hospital in Bowmanville. They are requesting a hospital sign to be put up going eastbound on Highway 2. They already have signs up on Highway 2 westbound, on Highway 35 and Highway 115, but they really need the sign up on the east side to serve the people in Courtice. But I can't seem to get this sign up. I've spoken to MOT people and I can't get it up. Can you help me, Mr Minister?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): The member, in his usual style, is far too humble: It is not a small problem. The proof is as follows. I've spent a good deal of time looking at what I thought was a legitimate request from the Bowmanville Memorial Hospital. They're requesting additional signage, big time: They want 10 more signs.

Keep in mind, sir, that we have to be fair, that we have to be equitable. However, having done this, we cannot jeopardize the integrity of our policy. You already have the maximum signage under the regulation.

We welcome the opportunity, maybe at a future date, to recognize the need, and it's legitimate indeed, but we're consistent with our policy. The signs are in place and we wish everyone well in this endeavour. I thank the member for his legitimate question.

Mr Mills: Mr Minister, I can't be satisfied with that because the people coming from Courtice can't see where the hospital is. Surely, it's not going to break the bank to put one extra sign up, regardless of what your rules and regulations are.

Hon Mr Pouliot: I'm not surprised; when you take your job seriously and the requests of your constituents with the sincerity the member does, it's a normal reaction indeed. It's the kind of reaction that you respect in local politics where you believe in the people who pay your wages and you try to deliver.

But I know, in his wisdom—and the person is a wise sage—he understands that this minister, like his colleagues, has to make very painful and very difficult decisions, for we must operate in the collective. I appreciate

the member's sincerity. I know of his commitment in this endeavour and it pains me to say that this is all we can do at this time.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Yesterday in a question that I posed to the minister during an estimates committee meeting regarding the role of the province with respect to the sharing of revenue that will be generated from casino gambling, she responded that the province was going to greedily hoard all of the revenue for itself, 100% of the revenue, and would not be sharing that revenue with anyone else, that in fact it was the Treasurer's lust for dollars and the lack of fiscal management, the lack of good management on his part, that would result in this new casino economy.

Unfortunately, charitable organizations were going to be dealt out of the equation; the minister quite clearly admitted to this yesterday. There's no role for them to play in the sharing of any of the revenues that would be generated.

I have to ask the minister, does she not understand the terrible impact, the negative impact, this is going to have on the ability of charitable organizations to generate revenues? Once she puts casino gambling in place, they will no longer be able to generate the kinds of revenues they have in the past. You're going to be cutting into their market share, quite frankly, and you're leaving them high and dry—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member complete his question, please.

Mr Cordiano: —without any alternative plans. You're doing nothing for them in the future. Will she admit that she is going to deal them completely out of the picture? Will she stand up and say that that's not going to be the case? Quite frankly, we can't see how that's going to be the case in the future for these charitable organizations.

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I have to first of all say that my words were somewhat different from the words that were used by the member today. I certainly wouldn't use such words, especially in talking about our Treasurer.

Let me say that cabinet has not earmarked revenues generated by the casino at this point, but the benefits—and I've said this before—to the municipality will be in the form of direct spinoffs. Now, when I met with the officials from Windsor we talked about policing, the fact that we want to see a rigorous enforcement framework in place. We will discuss that. But the spinoff benefits are quite tremendous, and I think I can safely say that Windsor is very happy that it was chosen for the pilot project.

The Speaker: Supplementary?

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): Yes, Windsor had in fact asked to be a pilot project site. We agree with the minister. That's nothing new. But what the minister has not told the Legislature is that the city of Windsor has formally asked you to share in the profits that are going to be made by the casino. They believe that increased policing will be necessary, and possibly increased social services.

What we want to know from the minister, very clearly, is whether the ministry and the Ontario government are going to take all of the money and put it in the general treasury fund or whether the city of Windsor and the county of Essex are going to be able to receive a modest amount of the profits that are going to be made. That's what we want to know. Could the minister please tell us when these decisions were made? If they haven't been made, when are they going to be made and when will we get a clear picture of whether we will be able to modestly share, as the city council has requested, in the profits that are going to be made?

Hon Ms Churley: As I already stated, we have discussed and will be discussing further the costs of policing. We recognize that there will be more law enforcement required.

In terms of the spinoff benefits, we should not forget here that the location of the casino will generate a number of benefits, including an expanded tax base, increased tourism, a stronger hospitality and entertainment base, and secure permanent employment for a number of people. Those, I think, are benefits that the city of Windsor is feeling very good about. Obviously, we have to sit down and consult further about where we go from here. We have a lot of discussing and planning to do. However, I will be coming back to the House and we will be having more discussions about this project, but in the meantime I've made it very clear that the largest benefit to the community will be the spinoff benefits—which are great, I may add.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME PROGRAM

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services, and I request that she be asked to return to the chamber.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Your question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Okay. The member for Wellington.

Mr Arnott: Last week I told this House about the families in Wellington who are struggling because of service cuts to the special services at home program; for example, Mr and Mrs Earl Campbell and their daughter, Tannis. Tannis is three years old and she has Down syndrome. Another example is Mr and Mrs John Perkins and their daughter, Becky. Becky has an uncontrollable seizure disorder. She has as many as 100 seizures a day. There are numerous other examples of these service cuts.

Minister, you don't see the faces of the parents and the children who desperately need your help but aren't getting it because of your government's senseless priorities. My question is, how can you abandon these families?

1540

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): We have not abandoned these families. In fact, we increased the dollars that we gave to special services at home this year. The problem is that the need far outpaces what we are able to give. I do see the faces of these clients and their children. They come to see me as well as they do every member of this House. I think we are

all very concerned about the need for us to provide these kinds of appropriate services.

The member is well aware, because we met last week and talked about the problems that have arisen because our ministry has been underfunded in this area for some time compared to need and because of the difficulty that we are having getting the dollars that were intended for this program out of facility care and back into the community.

We will continue to do what we can. The Wellington, Waterloo and Kitchener offices are working with the families and are consulting with them on the best way to provide the greatest array of services that are possible.

Mr Arnott: Mr Speaker, you won't be surprised to learn that the answer is totally unsatisfactory. It's not a question of funding, Minister; it's a question of priorities, and your priorities are out of whack. When you turned your back on disabled kids, you betrayed every tradition your party ever stood for and you forfeited your party's soul. Your callousness is going to force some of these families to institutionalize their children, at a cost of over \$100,000 a year. What are you going to do to help these families keep their kids at home?

Hon Mrs Boyd: We share the member's concern that the alternatives seem very bleak for parents, and we are deeply concerned with maintaining community services. What we have done in the case of this particular region, where the need has far outstripped the dollars that are available, is to try to work with the family groups to ensure that we are providing services to those with the greatest need and trying to stretch the dollars as far as possible. We are looking for other sources of funding. Certainly, if there are dollars available in other areas that are underspent, we are constantly monitoring that and trying to move those funds around.

The planning that was done under the multi-year plan by previous governments did not take into account the numbers of people who would be served in the communities, and we are attempting to correct the base funding for this program because we see it as a major preventive and interventive program as well.

LIQUOR STORES

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Minister, I can say that I have been contacted by numerous constituents in my riding of Brantford who work at the local LCBO outlets. They're very concerned because of rumours and speculation that is currently under way in the media and in conversation about the possibility of privatizing the LCBO outlets not only in Brantford but throughout Ontario.

I happen to think that the employees of the LCBO are excellent. They provide a great service to my constituents in Brantford. People like Rick Gans and Michael Warnock do a great job, and yet they're concerned.

Minister, perhaps privatization is on the agenda of the Liberal Party and perhaps it's on the agenda of the Conservative Party. Can you confirm or deny, Minister, that—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Ward: —privatization is on the agenda of this New Democratic Party of Ontario?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): There is absolutely no truth to the rumour that the government is going to privatize the LCBO. The speculation that I think people read in the Star is that: pure speculation.

Mr Ward: People like Rick Gans and Michael Warnock will be pleased to hear that, Madam Minister.

In my riding of Brantford we've been impacted by the recent layoffs that have occurred at the LCBOs. We have two retirements coming up in December. My supplementary is, can we have a commitment, through yourself, that the LCBO will review the staffing levels at that time to see whether or not some adjustments can be made because of these retirements?

Hon Ms Churley: I can't make any commitments. What I can say is that the LCBO is part of the retail sector and, as such, has suffered the same effects the private sector is feeling. There absolutely are declining sales. Will there be more layoffs? There are going to be reviews under way, all over the place, of all board operations, including Brantford.

I also want to point out that many people believe the LCBO is a monopoly and is not impacted by the recession. The reality is that's not the case. They're in competition with Brewers Retail stores, independent wine stores and onsite outlets. They are doing everything they can at this time to maintain their market share.

NON-PROFIT HOUSING

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): My question is for the Minister of Housing. It relates to a government that claims to protect tenants but in reality is acting like the worst landlord in the province. This is a government that will evict tenants and double their rents with no recourse or protection.

I am talking about Halam Park in Hamilton where 400 tenants and their children will be thrown out on the streets by this government because it intends to spend \$4.5 million to renovate their building and turn it into a non-profit project. The tenants do not believe these renovations are necessary. When the tenants move back in, many will have their rents doubled, and this is on top of the expense and upheaval of moving their families twice.

Minister, these tenants are waiting to hear from you. They have waited for a month and they are frantic. Will you tell us that what you are going to do is remedy this mess your government has created?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): The member has raised an issue which I think is an important one. It's one that was brought to my attention during a visit to Hamilton a couple of weeks ago. I didn't have time right then to speak to the tenants involved, but certainly we are concerned about the process that's been going on.

We have asked the regional office of the Ministry of Housing to involve itself and we have asked staff from our offices here at Queen's Park to involve themselves and try to straighten out the situation. It's been a very unfortunate

kind of process that's been followed and we certainly don't want to see tenants evicted in this process.

PETITIONS

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I have a petition which reads:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education and, in keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two educational systems, kindergarten to grade 12/OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto; and

"Whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area, yet have access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the total corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterparts,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I have put my signature to this petition.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario that reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across this province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

That's signed by several hundred people, and that is in addition to the 50,000 signatures that were submitted yesterday. I too have affixed my name to this petition.

1550

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): I'd like to present a petition signed by residents of Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Kingston and Peterborough. I'll forget about the whereabouts, but the petition simply says:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to pass Bill 40, an act to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, without further delay."

I affix my name to this petition.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

This is a petition which has been signed by many workers across this province, from St Catharines, Streetsville, Etobicoke, Malton, Aurora, Ancaster and Bolton. I sign my name thereto.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I too have affixed my signature to it.

REAL ESTATE GAINS

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I am submitting a petition on behalf of the Minister of Citizenship, Elaine Ziemba. It's from citizens here in Toronto and it has about 19 names on it. It is a petition opposing the introduction of a new tax on real estate gains. The "Be it resolved" is:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): My petition reads:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I affix my signature to this.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My petition reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): Today I have a petition to the Legislature from some 134 citizens from across the Niagara region, some from Niagara-on-the-Lake, St Catharines, Virgil, even Stevensville, and some of course from the beautiful city of Niagara Falls, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula.

"We believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular.

"We believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity.

"We ask you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I have a petition.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I support this petition and affix my signature thereto.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My second petition reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of the members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which has in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

GAMBLING

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a petition from the Abundant Life Center of Niagara. It's a petition to the members of the provincial Parliament of Ontario re the proposal to license a permanent gambling establishment in the Niagara Peninsula. It reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula. I believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and the Niagara region in particular. I believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity. By my signature here attached, I ask you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

I agree with this petition and I affix my signature to it to show my agreement.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I have a petition signed by many residents. It's to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I've affixed my signature thereto.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I have a petition from many constituents here to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I affix my signature.

1600

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario," this petition reads:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30"—short—"minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally"—and I use that word carefully—"the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby

ensuring fewer question periods"—fewer question periods which he never attends anyway—"and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who"—I might add—"are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I shall sign this. I signed it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): The time for petitions has expired. Reports by committees.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): May I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker, before we go to reports by committees?

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Yes. On a point of order, the honourable member for York Centre.

Mr Sorbara: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'm rising on a point of order today arising from remarks made yesterday by the member for York South, the Premier of the province, relating to questions asked of him in respect of the York City Centre matter.

I will refer first to standing order 23 of our standing orders; I think that's the correct number, although I know the numbers have been recently revised given the new rule changes. As you will be aware, standing order 23 deals with those occasions on which the Speaker may, or indeed is required to, call a member of this House to order. Although you don't have the section in front of you, you are aware that there are several paragraphs or directions under standing order 23, and I'm referring to standing order 23(g). I would like to read it into the record and, for your benefit, read it to you. It requires that the Speaker call a member to order if that member:

"(g) Refers to any matter that is the subject of a proceeding

"(i) that is pending in a court or before a judge for judicial determination, or

"(ii) that is before any quasi-judicial body constituted by the House or by or under the authority of an act of the Legislature."

Now, sir, there is a qualifying paragraph there which reads as follows:

"where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Speaker that further reference would create a real and substantial danger of prejudice to the proceeding."

I note that the Clerk is whispering into your ear, sir, but I hope I can continue to have—I'm sorry, I apologize to the Clerk. It's not actually the Clerk, it's one of the eminent table officers. I do hope to continue, though, to have your undivided attention.

The substance of the rules, if I could paraphrase, is simply this: that you, as Speaker, are required to call any member to order if he refers to any matter, under paragraph (ii), that is pending before a quasi-judicial body constituted by an act of the Parliament, if you perceive to your satisfaction that what is being said has a real potential for prejudicing the outcome of that matter.

As you'll recall, during question period we were referring to the OMB, so we've met the first qualification; that is, the OMB is a body which is created under the authority of this Parliament, and it's certainly a quasi-judicial body. And the Premier, in his response, did refer to a matter that was before the body; there's no doubt about that. The York City Centre project is currently pending, and I think all parties would agree to that.

The real question you have to consider, I believe, is whether there is the possibility that you are satisfied—although you were not in the chair at that time, I ask you in your capacity as Speaker to look at the words, and perhaps I'll just read the words again—whether you are satisfied "that further reference would create a real and substantial danger of prejudice to the proceeding."

Could I just point out to you why I think, in the instance of the references by the Premier, you would be required under the precedents—I'm going to refer to the precedents in a moment—to call the Premier to order under this instance? For that purpose I want to quote the Premier's response, but before I do, remember that the OMB has before it a project that will change the face of the city of York, a \$400-million project involving commercial development, market housing, non-profit housing, a transportation terminal, a \$400-million project—

The Acting Speaker: Might I ask the member just for a moment to take his seat? Let me just say that this matter is under active consideration by the Speaker, as precisely the matter you are raising, in fact in almost the same way you're raising it, was raised by the honourable member for Ottawa West. So the Speaker is under active consideration of this matter and he fully intends next week to be able to issue a response to the point you're raising.

Two issues here: The first issue is that for you to raise it now, on the second day, when the Speaker is not in the chair who would be dealing with it—or secondly, to ask me to make any kind of ruling is not I think appropriate under the circumstances. So I would say to the honourable member, indeed his point is under active consideration and I believe the Speaker will be making this at his earliest convenience at the beginning of next week.

Mr Sorbara: If I might, Mr Speaker, I was aware of the fact that the matter was raised. I want to advise you that I'm not going to ask you to make a ruling now. What I'm asking is, by way of a point of order under standing order 23, to put some matters on the record for consideration of the Speaker when he rules on that matter, because I think it's very important. If you'll just indulge me for a moment, I'll simply continue to point out that the—

The Acting Speaker: If I might say to the honourable member, and I say this with great respect, this point quite appropriately was made yesterday. In this House and in the

tradition of this place, points of order have to be made at the time when there is disorder. So quite appropriately the member for Ottawa West made his point of order yesterday. It is, if I might say, inappropriate at this moment to raise this issue, because it happened yesterday. There is nothing out of order at this point in time.

If there is further information, as the honourable member is indicating, by all means, that should be given to the Speaker. But to disrupt the order of the House at this point in time does not make any sense.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, if I might just conclude, I'm afraid I can't entirely agree with you that the matter ought to be raised precisely at that moment. Indeed we have heard from previous Speakers that during question period they would prefer that matters relating to points of order, unless they are absolutely urgent, be postponed, if you will, until after question period. I would have done that and raised the matter after question period, but I wasn't here. I realize my friend the member for Ottawa West did raise the matter.

If you do not want to hear any more, sir, I will simply conclude by saying it is urgent that the Speaker refer to the comments made by the Premier yesterday, remembering just a couple of things: that in this instance the government of Ontario is the proponent at the OMB and therefore ought not to say anything about the validity of the project and, secondly, if the Speaker will consult Erskine May, he will find—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I thank the honourable member for making that submission. Reports by committees.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: The member for York Centre is making a point of order and I for one am prepared to listen to it. I think he has—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I thank the honourable member for Markham—

Mr Cousens: He has tried to make it. He has been interrupted by the Speaker and he has every right in this House—

The Acting Speaker: Please take your seat. The honourable member for Markham should take his seat.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: There is nothing out of order in the House. We'll go on. Reports by committees.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: On the point of order the member for York Centre is making, I think it's a very valid point of order. I would ask for unanimous consent that he can carry on with his point of order.

The Acting Speaker: Reports by committees. Introduction of bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PLANNING STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT (RESIDENTIAL UNITS), 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS RELATIVES À L'AMÉNAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE (UNITÉS D'HABITATION)

On motion by Mr Cooke, the following bill was introduced for first reading:

Bill 90, An Act to amend the Planning Act and the Municipal Act with respect to Residential Units and Garden Suites / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'aménagement du territoire et la Loi sur les municipalités en ce qui concerne les unités d'habitation et les pavillons-jardins

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion by Mr Cooke, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members; a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1613 to 1618.

The Acting Speaker: Would the members please take their seats.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. Mr Cooke has moved that leave be given to introduce a bill entitled An Act to amend the Planning Act and the Municipal Act with respect to Residential Units and Garden Suites.

All those in favour of the motion, please stand one at a time and be recognized by the table.

Ayes

Abel, Akande, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Farnan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Hayes, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Laughren, Lessard, MacKinnon, Mackenzie, Malkowski, Marchese, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, Owens, Perruzza, Pilkey, Pouliot, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Grey will come to order.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I'd ask the honourable member to take his seat. Are there any further people who wish to vote in favour of the first reading of this bill? No.

All those who are opposed to this motion, please stand.

Nays

Beer, Bradley, Callahan, Caplan, Cousens, Curling, Eddy, Elston, Grandmaitre, Harnick, Jordan, Mahoney, Mancini, Marland, Murdoch (Grey), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Sorbara, Sterling, Stockwell, Turnbull, Wilson (Simcoe West).

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 55, the nays 22.

The Acting Speaker: As the ayes are 55 and the nays 22, I declare the motion carried.

Does the honourable minister have any explanatory notes? No.

Further bills?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Mr Cooke moves government notice of motion 18.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Unless the minister has some remarks, I wish to speak, please.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Bruce.

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Grey will come to order.

Mr Elston: I have some remarks to make with respect to this particular motion. I had advised the House leader some time ago, when this appeared in the orders, that I would be speaking for a little bit of time on it because I wanted to convey my very big sense of disappointment about the procedure in this House and about the procedure that is being carried on in the committees themselves.

While this does not speak exactly to the whole issue of procedure, it does deal with the membership on committees and the ability or inability of our friends and colleagues to—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Elston: I'm sorry to delay, but there are a few people who want to get out of here, and I'm prepared to sit for a couple of minutes until they get out.

The Acting Speaker: I think the member for Bruce can continue.

Mr Elston: As I was about to say, the membership of the committees gives us an opportunity to talk about the work that is to be done in committees and the work that these particular people will be required to do as they go into the various committees.

Some of the people who are watching but who have not got the Orders and Notices paper, like I have, won't know exactly what we're doing here. If I may read through the resolution that has been proposed by Mr Cooke, it says:

"That the following substitutions be made to the membership of the standing committees:

"On the standing committee on administration of justice: Mr Mills for Mr Wessinger, Ms Swarbrick for Mr Morrow

"On the standing committee on estimates: Mr Abel for Mr O'Connor, Mr Elston for Mr Sorbara, Ms Haeck for Mr Ferguson, Mr Rizzo for Mr Perruzza

"On the standing committee on finance and economic affairs: Mr Ferguson for Mr Christopherson, Mr Waters for Ms Ward (Don Mills), Mr Wilson (Kingston and the Islands) for Mr Ward (Brantford)

"On the standing committee on general government: Mrs Mathysen for Mr Hope, Mr Morrow for Mr Ferguson

"On the standing committee on government agencies: Mr Cooper for Mr Ferguson, Mr Rizzo for Mr Wiseman

"On the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly: Mrs MacKinnon for Mr Cooper, Mr Wessinger for Mr Mills

"On the standing committee on the Ombudsman: Mr Abel for Mr Duignan, Ms Harrington for Mr Perruzza, Mr Mammoliti for Mr Johnson

"On the standing committee on public accounts: Mr Grandmaître for Mr Sorbara, Mr Perruzza for Ms Haeck

"On the standing committee on regulations and private bills: Mr Fletcher for Mr Dadamo, Mr Hayes for Mr Farnan, Mr Perruzza for Mr Sutherland

"On the standing committee on resources development: Mr Hope for Mr Waters, Mr Ward (Brantford) for Mr Dadamo

"On the standing committee on social development: Mr Dadamo for Mr Drainville, Mr Farnan for Mrs Mathysen, Mr O'Connor for Mr Wilson (Kingston and the Islands)."

The reason I read through all that is to let the people know there are committees that are struck to do business of the House in relation to the bills which are brought forward, or indeed if there are special reports that are assigned out to them, to study and report back to us. They are important instruments of this democratic place.

But I have some concern over the way in which we are currently engaged in doing the business of this place and whether or not these members being appointed to these positions will actually be able to carry out their duties and obligations as members.

What are the duties and obligations of the members as they take their seats in this place? First and foremost, Mr Speaker, they are elected to represent the views of their constituents, judged in a manner which the members describe to themselves from the input they receive by being out in the community on weekends, as I know you are; at the fall fairs in places like Tiverton and Teeswater and Walkerton, or I'm sure you have your favourite fall fair locations as well; receiving the letters which come to us, receiving the materials which come to us at formal functions in the riding, or indeed those times which I find to be actually most appropriate for members, as we go leisurely about our business, our day-to-day routine in the riding, and people come up to us on the street and say: "Murray, do you know about X or Y? Would you help us find our way through this particular piece of business?"

It's up to us as local members to come back to our offices, to consider the input from our local constituents and then to develop, in our opinion, on the basis of this rational digestion of all the information that comes to us from our constituents, together with information gleaned from experts who may want to speak to us about the material at hand, and come to a conclusion about how best to examine the public issues that are introduced by way of resolution, motion, government bill or whatever.

It seems to me that the way our rules are struck, we are now generally precluded from carrying out our mandate. I'm concerned, as one of the people who is appointed to one of these standing committees, that I will not be able to carry out my responsibilities fully in relation to my constituency duties.

There is another duty which I think befalls all members in this particular place. It has to do with the fact that we are members of what in essence is a provincial council chamber. I try to make the point, when I go to speak to people in places like Wiarton or Lion's Head or to school children in Mildmay or wherever, to understand that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, while a very important assembly for the people here, has got to be compared with others of our democratic institutions, like the council chamber in each of those localities; that in essence what we are is a provincial council. We are representing, each of us, a constituency.

1630

Although we have particular interest in the parochial nature of our concern for our own constituents, like the jobs at the Bruce A nuclear plant, which I have stood from time to time to speak about in this House to try to get the Premier and the Minister of Energy to commit to giving a fair assessment to the proposal for the retubing and maintenance work at the Bruce, and while I exert the most influence that I can in this chamber to force this government through its Minister of Energy and through the Premier not to destroy the fairness in the assessment of the future of the Bruce nuclear, I am also under the knowledge and understanding that as a member of a provincial council I have an obligation which stretches a little bit beyond the parochial interest. My membership here, my representation of my constituents here, requires me also to balance my parochial interest with those interests of a provincial nature.

It is important for me to be able to carry out that function, the function of a member whose mandate it is to ensure that the province also does well in our deliberations, that I be able to attack each of the public interest items that comes before us as a point of business in a way which is full, which is fair and which allows us to air all of our concerns about the particular public policy that is brought to our attention.

I don't feel at this particular time in our history that we are able to do that, and I will tell you why, Mr Speaker. It is because I have discovered that this grey book which I now hold, which is entitled Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, is radically being changed on an ad hoc basis in the manner in which our affairs are being conducted.

It is true, without doubt, that they were changed in the formal sense by motion of the government House leader, with the support, I might add, of all of the government members over the very wild objections, and I can only describe our objections to the change in procedure in this place as being very wild objections, because the Liberal Party was extremely upset with the manner in which this whole task of changing our standing orders occurred. But it was passed because there was a majority of the govern-

ment members, and there were in support of them the members of the Progressive Conservative Party, to change the manner in which a member can actually perform her or his function in this place and in the committees.

I tell you that the change in the way business is done in this chamber has really shackled and has really prevented the members of those standing committees—and in fact any of the other committees that we set up, because from time to time there will be special committees established by us—from doing any real work. And you might ask, what is your example? The example which I use, of course, is the powerful tool now enshrined in an easy one-two-three, step-by-step, precise sort of nature in our standing orders given to us under the motion that amended the standing orders with the help of the New Democrats and the Progressive Conservative Party.

The time allocation motion, which was before these days—I guess before June 22, 1992—a matter of very serious and of last resort, has now been brought forward in these amendments to the rules. In fairness, sir, I must say that the member for Victoria-Haliburton has stood from time to time and has suggested that the new rules do not allow full debate, nor do they allow the members to fully express or even partially express some of their views on these matters for or against a particular public issue because they curtail our time of discussion so much. I want to put that fully on the record in recognizing that there are democrats among all of us, but some have felt more compelled than others to rely not on democracy but to rely on the tool of efficiency as their chief god when they have come to voting on these amendments.

I want to say there is no time left for us, because the time allocation motion specifies that no matter what the business, no matter how long it is to take, it is clear that you have, as in our last bill, Bill 40, but a few days to do clause-by-clause. Once the time has run out, whether the business is done or not, clause-by-clause is done, and everything that has to be done to make sure the votes are all taken, to make sure the materials in support of amendments are included in the record, is done.

What does that do? It does several things. It requires that even though a motion has never been read in the committee, raised by a member from the government benches, talked about by the parliamentary assistant or the minister who steers this through the committee, talked about by the members of the opposition or seen by any of the people who have provided public input, it will be deemed to have been seen and read and heard in the committee.

Nary a minute's time has been spent by the committee members in dealing with those amendments. Never a second of time has been spent in debating the amendments with the minister, the parliamentary assistant or the members of the government benches, who generally support their ministers.

I'm not complaining about that; that's the nature of this place. But one thing I cannot abide, as I look at the list of the women and men who are assigned the task of democratically examining the public policy that is being promoted by government bills and resolutions or whatever in

committee, is that they cannot do their business because the rules have proclaimed that they have no business to do.

What a terrible statement for the people of this province to hear: There is no business to do in this place but the business of efficiency. That cannot be the primary rule of this place. Whatever people may think about democracy, whatever they may think about governing, whatever they may think about the relevant merits of a particular bill, they cannot sacrifice democracy to efficiency.

If we were to look at the most efficient form of government, it would be a long way from democracy. It would be a long way from the cost associated with moving public policy through our committee structure. In fact, it would probably tell us that we wouldn't need any of the standing committees that are listed in our standing orders, that we wouldn't need to substitute Mr Cooper for Mr Ferguson and Mr Rizzo for Mr Wiseman in the standing committee on government agencies because they would have nothing to do. There would be no examination of the public policy. There would be no examination of the public input placed before the committee. There would be nothing required of the people's representatives when it came to passing the legislation.

That's not the way this place works. I have been here since 1981 and in those days I was elated to find in this House and in the committees I served on very capable and highly dedicated men and women when it came to promoting the issues of free and open debate.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Name names.

Mr Elston: I will name names: James Renwick, for one. I have nothing but the highest regard for Jim Renwick. Although I didn't know him well, when he passed away I thought I had lost in some way a real friend. Look through the debates of 1981, 1982 and 1983 and, I'm sure, before that because he was a very good speaker, but those are the ones I remember.

I can picture him standing in his seat just off to my left. In those days, of course, not only did he sit off to my left but he was to my left as well. I can picture him standing, putting the arguments clearly—I suspect you probably knew Mr Renwick, Mr Speaker—about why it was that under the circumstances this House should not take away the rights of the members to put their complaints with respect to public policy. And we had lots of complaints in those days.

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I was elected on March 19, 1981. Now, some of us will remember that that was the return of the Davis government to a majority. Not far from where the Treasurer now sits a man from Brampton sat, and as we complained about not being able to speak up there would be uttered very famous words—at least, they became famous after a few utterances—"Mr Premier, why is it that you are doing this to us and taking away our rights?" The reply? "These are the realities of March 19."

It got so that it was such a popular saying that every time one of the members of the opposition stood to inquire about the negative effects of some Conservative public

policy the ministers would start to reply by saying, "The realities of March 19 let us do it."

It let them do it all right, and we felt pretty well done in after several of the debates. I can remember going into committee in those days and dealing with Bill 179, which was the bill to deal with implementation of wage controls. It affected a good part of the public service; in fact, it was supposed to affect all of the public service in the province of Ontario.

Well I remember those committee meetings, and well I remember the members from the loyal opposition's third party in those days, the New Democrats, yelling and screaming and bringing their cohorts, members of their party who had positions in the public service, into the committee and day after day bringing forth all the condemnation they could find to try and frustrate the government of the day from proceeding with its bill to stop the wages. It was a major public policy, and it was a policy which we were providing opposition to in those days.

In the committee, when we were putting our case, we were allowed a relatively free flow of debate, none of this: "You have 20 minutes. They have 20 minutes. The New Democrats have 20 minutes. Oh, and when you get to 20 minutes, whether you're in the middle of a question or not, that's your last question. Finish the question. Finish the answer. Move on to the next."

I recall quite well that there was a certain member from the Conservative Party, the government in 1981 through to May 2, 1985—a little bit longer than that, actually. June 26 or something, I think, was the date things changed over. I remember that the Conservatives had a designated hitter in the committee who, when you saw him starting to salivate with a sense that, "It's my turn to speak," you knew the hammer was coming down on us and that we were preparing to move on.

But you know something? In the committee work in those days there was never a time when we were told that we couldn't even read the amendments, that we couldn't force the government to at least read the darn things so that they could be on the record. I can't tell you the frustration that probably would be carried for a member of that House, 1981 through 1985, with the type of scenario that we now have in our committees today, largely because of the way our committees are structured and largely because of the sort of—I don't know—insatiable need of the government for efficiency.

Efficiency isn't the bottom line in democracy. What is the bottom line in democracy? What is it that these men and women are going to be assigned to do in these committees? It is to filter out the best way that they can, with the tools they are given, the best interests of the province. I will agree with everybody else that it is unlikely that New Democrats and Liberals and Tories will agree unanimously on very many things of public policy. There are some examples.

When I spoke not that long ago in this House about the cooperatives bill, which I actually aided getting through here in relatively quick fashion because we believed in it, it was because I was representing to the members of the government the fact that if there are no questions of divergent

public interest in our mind about a public policy, then we're prepared to move the debate forward, that we are not prepared as women and men in opposition to hold things up that we see few problems with.

I don't think there are any of us who talk about products of human minds and hands as being perfect, but in many ways the bill about which I spoke, the cooperatives bill, was one we supported and wholeheartedly aided getting through this place. In fact, we aided its getting through the committee of the whole stage and we were prepared to help.

We were prepared to aid in getting the University Foundations Act through this place not that long ago. I think it was just barely a week or so ago. We assented to it because we saw that there was a public need on the part of the university community to move forward with the implementation of the legislative framework there to allow it to do its work to raise money. That's important, and we agreed with the importance of that bill. We said to the House, "Let us move forward quickly with it." That was efficient, but it was an efficiency associated with an agreement as to the need in the public policy sense. The Conservatives agreed with the movement of that bill right quickly, and this House came together unanimously to move that bill through with very little delay.

But now we see that when we are prepared to cooperate on the basis of an acknowledgement that the public policy is good for the community on which it is focused, we now find that if we disagree with the government, then the best we can hope for is that we will have three days of debate on second reading and then we will be time allocated in a way which strangleholds the operation of this place and which throws out the window all the merits of the democratic system in which we are situated.

That is not acceptable. It is a complaint—

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Not acceptable to you.

Mr Elston: The Minister of Labour says it's not acceptable to me. You know something, it ought not be acceptable to Bob Mackenzie, the member for Hamilton East, who used to stand and applaud people like Jim Renwick and others as they complained about being shut down from debate. It shouldn't be a complaint, but the member for Hamilton East, who is now adorned with the mantle of office, Her Majesty's servant, the prince of the Labour ministry, says that it's acceptable to him that efficiency rather than democracy become the chief objective of the government.

It is not acceptable to us. It is not acceptable that democracy be replaced with efficiency. Effectiveness and efficiency can come from a democratic institution that can work and that has the freedom to work and that is not dominated by members of a government that are insatiable in the exercise of their power. That's what we have now, and that is why these standing orders have been so radically changed under the passage of the amendments that were brought to this place by the member for Windsor-Riverside, the government House leader.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader):

You mean the ones you negotiated.

Mr Elston: We didn't negotiate those sorts of things, Mr House Leader, and Mr Speaker, you know we didn't negotiate those sorts of changes because we would not have provided this sort of corruption of the standing orders and the end of democracy as we have known it in this place.

Hon Mr Cooke: This is hardly corruption.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, if they have a point of order, let them stand up and let them be recorded, but from now on perhaps at least when I am given the time to speak on these motions you could listen. I can't understand, Mr Speaker, how it is—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Order, please. Order. The honourable member for Bruce has the floor.

Mr Elston: The standing orders have been changed and while it would be unusual for me to take much time on a motion of this nature, I find that it is the only time in which I can have some minutes to express in the greatest degree my chagrin at the change in the nature of this House and the committee structure of this House, and the fact that I believe the men and women we are appointing to go into those standing committees are going to encounter such terrible harassment when they try and do their work.

That's why I'm making my remarks. I have no other place to do it. I can't complain except by raising points of privilege and find that on an ad hoc basis, one after the other, the resolve of this House that the rights of the minority be supported is going to be overruled, for very technical reasons in some cases. I have raised in the greatest degree my concern that the Speaker backs out of the role of supporting the rights of the minority merely because something happened in the committee and a majority of the committee members don't report it back to him. Let's talk about that as a problem for these committee members.

Let's take a look at Bill 40. Bill 40 went into the committee and was time allocated. Very close to the end of the time for clause-by-clause in the standing committee on resources development, which is where Bill 40 was sent for examination, the government of the day dropped over 20 amendments on the table at the last moment, knowing full well that the eighth day, which was coming up on the Monday, would have at maximum probably half an hour to consider these 26 amendments. The government knew full well that the people who are members of the committee would not be able to deal with the existing amendments that were on the table, which by that time, I understand, numbered somewhere near 182.

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Knowing full well that there would be no time for us to deal with the issues on the last day, 26 or so more government amendments fell on the table. It was known full well that those amendments would not be able to be introduced one by one in the half-hour that remained to us on the eighth day of clause-by-clause, because the time allocation motion said that at 4 o'clock on that day, all amendments

that had not been put would be deemed to have been read and all the work had to be done to make sure that votes on all those sections would be taken.

It was a startling revelation to all the people who had been watching the proceedings to understand that not only would the amendments not be read, but they would not even be read when the votes were taken. There was not one time during the committee when the written documents appeared on the written agenda of our committee's table.

They were given to the clerk of the committee, that clerk saw them, and they were distributed to the members, but my understanding is that they're not part of the record. In essence, what happens is that they get recorded in the amended bill as it comes back to the House, but they were never read in the committee so that the members of the standing committee on resources development could hear, one by one, not only the amendment but also the explanation of what the amendment would do to Bill 40.

It's interesting that when the committee members on the standing committee on resources development went through the votes, it was done on the basis of, "Shall the amendment to section whatever carry?" Item after item, the government said yes and the opposition said no, but never, if someone was sitting in that committee room, would anybody know what the yes was for and the no was against, because nobody ever heard it read, no one ever heard it explained. No one discovered the merit of the amendment to a bill which has been in the making for several months.

That doesn't help our democratic process. That may be efficient and that may scupper any opportunity democracy has of surviving in a very modern world.

I think I understand about as well as anybody the reasons why so many people these days are relying upon efficiency as their god. I don't agree with it. Like you, Mr Speaker, I come from a rural part of Ontario, where our society, because of various pressures, has changed terribly, where the issues confronting us as members and the issues confronting our constituents are of such magnitude and such daily importance that it requires in some ways a very quick response if one can possibly be found.

I understand the need for urgent activity, and I understand the nature of the change of the society which I represent in the great riding of Bruce. Urgency is all about us. Farms are closing up, businesses are issuing their last cheques, companies are sending out their last inventory, shopkeepers ordering their last bits of stock and people are losing their homes, their businesses and their jobs.

Our people are in urgent need of help. There isn't any question about it. Look what's happening to our industries. Look what is happening to the steel industry in Hamilton, the men and women there who have just gone through another announcement that there will be fewer workers needed in Hamilton steel, the workers who have just discovered that perhaps the GM plant in St Catharines is under a new scrutiny because of the overthrow of the existing hierarchy in GM.

All those things require an urgent intervention by this place, but not necessarily by this place. There is a role to

be played by the Premier as chief of the executive council and by his ministers. They can do certain things in the executive capacity, efficiently and effectively if they choose, without even coming to us. It will embarrass us, I am sure, when we look back on this government's term to find out just what has been done without the government coming to this Legislative Assembly.

People need to check the regulations this government has passed and is passing, the regulations which may find their way into the standing committee on regulations and private bills—to which Mr Fletcher, Mr Hayes and Mr Perruzza are going to be appointed by this motion—but which probably won't receive much review whatsoever, to be quite blunt.

The executive council can be pretty efficient, can be pretty effective without doing very much and allowing us to do very much, but this House is not—

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): On a point of order, Mr Chair: I know the member for Bruce is fixated on my name and wants to use it as often as he likes and looks to using it, as he did a few minutes ago. But I'm the member for Downsview, and I think it's the decorum in this place that we refer to members in the Legislature by their ridings. Essentially that's what's important, because this desk that I occupy in this chamber belongs to the people of Downsview.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member.

Mr Perruzza: This time, through their good graces, I'm here. Next time there will be somebody else here—

Interjection: I can't argue with that.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member. I believe the member for Bruce was reading the motion that was placed by the honourable House leader. The honourable member for Bruce has the floor.

Mr Elston: I have lost track, but I don't propose to go back to the beginning of my remarks. I was reading from page 21 of our Orders and Notices paper, number 74. I was only going through the names of some people who were going to have to do work in committees, and that I felt they would be compromised.

Perhaps some of those members will find out about the regulations in a way which will be more timely than the rest of us, and maybe we'll find out about the efficient way the member for York South and his cabinet are processing business in their sphere, but we still have to guard the traditional and, we hope, democratic institution of the chamber here so that we can do our work.

What other concerns do I have with respect to what the members to be appointed to these committees are going to be faced with? Well, concern for the members going on to the standing committee on public accounts. There are a couple of new members there. I won't mention their names, but I will tell you that one of the problems that will be confronting the members as they go into those committees is that the government invariably has a majority in each of those places. If there is an independent will to be expressed, if there is a hope by the opposition, in minority, to do certain business, it cannot be done if the whip is in on the members from the New Democratic Party. We

understand that the independence of these committees is only dependent upon the chief government whip and her instructions from the Premier.

1700

It is a sad reality, but it is none the less the way our tradition has developed, that the committee structures are generally based in each Parliament on a proportionate representation in the committees, as best we can make it. In this Parliament, where there are 74 members of the government caucus, 35 members of the official opposition and 20 of the people in the third party, and now one vacancy, as you well know, proportionately in committee we have a representation along those lines because we believe that the people have generally spoken in that regard.

So there are as members of the committee, in addition to Mrs MacKinnon and Mr Wessenger, who are going on to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, four other New Democrats, there are three Liberals, there are two third-party members and there is a chairperson to handle the business. I think in Legislative Assembly that chairperson happens to be a member of the New Democratic Party, but we have come to an agreement, under the progressive leadership of the Liberal administration, just now narrowly dismissed in the last election—

Interjection: Narrowly? It wasn't narrowly.

Mr Elston: There seems to be some disagreement. But in any event, the progressive leadership of the people from the Liberal Party decided that it wouldn't be just the public accounts committee that had an opposition member as Chair. That has been traditional for some time. The Chair of public accounts has been traditionally, for many, many years, a member of the opposition parties. I don't know where the tradition began, but it is quite clear that, of all the standing committees, that is probably slightly more independent than others, because the Chair has a very interesting role to play if he or she decides to be very aggressive in pursuing matters of financial interest.

However, in all cases, if a matter is reported to the committee, whoever is the chairperson managing that committee, the majority vote will always rule and the government will always get its way, unless, in some small way, the members of the committee are able to embarrass the government into taking the whip off the backs of their members and some kind of deal is struck whereby some flexibility of activity can occur and the public issue can be inspected from the view or perspective of the opposition, the minority interest, not the government interest.

That didn't happen all the time. It didn't happen very often, in fact, in the days when I first came here in 1981 through 1985. But it did happen on occasion, because we were able to use some tools, both in the committee, as members there, and in this place to force the government majority to deal with the public interest issues.

Now, as we've become more aware of the frighteningly efficient nature of our society, people believe that our democracy must be so efficient that we don't give time for anyone to do anything, and when that happens, the minority in committee doesn't have any instrument at its disposal to force the government to re-examine the public

policy if the government decides to close its eyes and plug its ears.

That's happened with Bill 40. The government has determined that it doesn't want to hear anything more about it. They don't want to be challenged about its application on the business community and the resulting problems that are associated with it. They don't want to be challenged with questions of economic impact. They don't want to be questioned about the validity of the amendments that have been placed in committee but never debated. In short, they don't want to bother with the very basic precepts of democracy that the committee members have a chance to challenge the minister, have a chance to challenge the parliamentary assistant, have a chance to challenge the bureaucrats who are promoting the public bill in the committees.

When that occurs, of course, the need for the standing committees is really under question. The need for moving of substitutions of membership on these standing committees, the resolution made by Mr Cooke as number 18 on this government motions list, is really under question, because what is it that this House requires the women and men as members of the committees to do but stamp the work of the Premier?

The member is more than just a tool or an instrument of the executive council. I was a member of the executive council at one point, and I was proud of it. I felt privileged that David Peterson in those days chose me as one of the members of the executive council. While from time to time the workload became so oppressive and days became so long and nights so short that I felt like I was going to run out of every ounce of energy I had, never for a moment did I question the need of the women and men who were members of the Liberal caucus—the government caucus in those days—to confront me with questions about the nature of the policies and programs which my ministry was bringing forward.

I may have on occasion found it irritating that the questions were repetitive, that sometimes a member who was just now approaching me had just missed a series of questions put by another one of my colleagues and I had to repeat it all, and I may have from time to time become impatient. When people get tired and a little bit ornery, impatience is of course one of the necessary side products of that whole operation. I can admit that there were days when I was tempted to try and figure out how I could become more efficient, and in fact from time to time I went to the government House leader of the day and asked, "Why can't we do this faster?"

Why couldn't we do it faster? Because the needs of our institution are such that every person in this place, as long as he or she is not repeating the same question, the same line minute after minute, needs to be heard. If there is a different point of interest, if there is a different question that comes to the mind of an individual here in relation to a minister's proposal, why can't he or she put it?

She can't put it, he can't put it, because the government has moved to make sure that the standing orders are not the guiding interests of protecting democracy, but they become, with their guiding principles, an instrument of efficiency.

That is not the way this world is supposed to work if we are to have free and happily democratic institutions.

These standing orders govern the work here. They govern the work in the committees that are the subject matter of the resolution brought by Mr Cooke. On the day when we find that efficiency is the name of the game, then surely we must all agree that democracy has been sacrificed for the purposes of the government. I don't understand that.

You, like I do, come from rural parts of Ontario, and you, like I, have been elected for some time. As I now reflect, the current member in the chair, the member for S-D-G & East Grenville, was an honorary member of the class of 1981. Not having come to us really early, he none the less was sort of brought in in an honorary capacity; 1984 is a little bit short of 1981. But you, like I, come from the roots and traditions of this province which really require us to be out and listening, sometimes unpleasantly, to the interrogatories of our constituents about what we're doing or not doing in this place.

You know that from time to time as a government member, in your case more briefly than I was, that the only way people have a chance of assessing the effectiveness that you or I have at this place is that they're able to quiz us about what we have done, where we have taken their inquiries, what action has been required of us and, "What have you done to require the Minister of X to look after my problem?"

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Oftentimes, Mr Speaker, I must say that if you couldn't get on the list in the House, from 1981 to 1985, as I was trying to do, and as I'm sure you must have been trying to do as the new member from then-Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry—it's been a terrible travesty in changing the name, but that's for another day, perhaps—if you couldn't get on the list to do anything in the House, then the local member had the tool of the standing committees. While we substitute men and women on to these committees to be official members, it is generally accepted that any member who wants to speak can wander in at an appropriate time when some business is being done and speak to the committee, although he's excluded from voting on any issue that may arise there as a matter of business.

But it would be easy when we were walking down the streets of Winchester, perhaps, or down the streets of Port Elgin, to just happen to have in our back pocket a copy of a speech that was made in the standing committee on finance and say to the honourable constituent who asked, "Noble, what did you do with my letter?"—actually, I don't know what you were doing in Port Elgin. Anyway, maybe it was I who was in Port Elgin and he asked me the question. You could pull out of your hip pocket a little extract from the meeting wherein you quizzed either the deputy minister or one of the public servants, the minister or the parliamentary assistant about a particular problem from our area.

It was comforting to both the member and the constituent that each had recorded the fact that there, in the Hansard of the committee, the member was able to put the question and there was a reply recorded publicly so that everybody who wished to know about issue X could go to

our Hansard report and say, "You know, there's a person who had a problem just like I did, and that member brought it forward so that we have an answer." It might not be the right one, but it might even be an undertaking to change some regulation that would make that problem disappear.

From my point of view, that role in our committees today is much, much restricted, and I'm concerned by that, because what instruments do we have as members of committees, as members in this Legislative Assembly, when we are so often prevented from voicing our concerns? The new government has substituted its very high-sounding words of support for democracy for a rigorous alliance with the new concept of efficiency in terms of government. They don't want to have members going into the standing committees and asking ministers—

Hon Mr Cooke: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would ask for unanimous consent to move to the supply motion, which the government must pass today. If the government doesn't supply the supply motion, there will be severe consequences for this province. It must be passed by 6. I ask for unanimous consent to move to the supply motion of the government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): The honourable member cannot move a motion on a point of order.

Hon Mr Cooke: I asked for unanimous consent, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: We can ask for unanimous consent.

Mr Elston: No, sir, you cannot ask for unanimous consent. There is nothing out of order.

Hon Mr Cooke: I asked for unanimous consent.

Mr Elston: You can't.

The Acting Speaker: We quite obviously do not have unanimous consent.

Mr Elston: He cannot do it on a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Hon Mr Laughren: You can do anything with unanimous consent. Don't be silly. You're denying unanimous consent.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, he cannot use that. It's not a point of order.

Hon Mr Cooke: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I just think the opposition should understand the consequences of what it is doing here this afternoon by denying supply for the government.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. I understand. I think all members know the consequences. The honourable member for Bruce has the floor and may continue.

Mr Elston: There are very few times when we have to speak in this House, because the rules have been changed to ensure that we have been silenced. There have been major changes in the standing orders because this New Democratic Party now worships at the altar of efficiency. They have forgotten about the principles of democracy. Every time we stand to speak and bring to the attention of

the people of this province that democracy has been sacrificed to efficiency, it seems to me that these people barrack and break up everything—

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): The cheques are in the mail.

Hon Mr Cooke: No, they're not.

Mrs Marland: Yes, they are.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I would ask—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Bruce has the floor. Please allow him to complete his presentation.

Mrs Marland: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The government House leader raised a point of order about why he wanted to move the supply bill now with unanimous consent instead of continuing with the motion he also placed some hour ago.

The Acting Speaker: I appreciate the information. I don't believe it's a point of order.

Mrs Marland: Speaking to his point of order, he is arguing that the welfare recipients will suffer because of his inability to bring forward the supply motion. We simply say to him that he had a choice of which motion to bring forward this afternoon.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Mrs Marland: Mr Speaker, I say simply that if the government was concerned about the welfare recipients, it wouldn't have to spend \$16 million on bilingual highway signs—

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. It was not a point of order. The honourable member for Bruce may resume his participation in the debate.

Hon Mr Cooke: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: On the point of order just raised, the fact of the matter was that today your House leader and the House leader for the official opposition were told the committee motion and supply, and they agreed to both. Now they're making people pay because they're not happy with a decision yesterday.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Cooke: It's absolutely despicable what you're doing.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Mr Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: I have taken a lot of BS from this government and its puppet Speaker over the last couple of days, but I can tell you one thing: One thing I will not stand for is the honourable government House leader saying—

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Eves: —that I told him he would have anything passed today, because I did not.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Eves: I give him an opportunity to withdraw that—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I realize everyone is on edge.

Interjection.

Hon Mr Cooke: You knew the committee motion was coming and you said you'd be speaking for a short period of time.

Mr Eves: I said nothing—

Hon Mr Cooke: We know you're filibustering on supply and people are going to suffer because of—

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Throw him out.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The more of these interjections we have, the more difficult it will be to conduct business. The honourable member for Bruce has the floor. He may resume.

Mr Elston: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As I said before, all that the current New Democratic government wishes to do is to have efficiency. They want to quiet us down. They want to shut us up. They don't want to hear any type of criticism. They will do and they will say anything to try and overcome our freedom of speech.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Elston: Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: We have many interjections. We have people who are not in their place interjecting. Please, interjections are out of order, particularly when a member is not in his or her seat.

Mr Elston: We have had actually a couple of notices that the motion for supply was going to be called. The earliest time was in the latter part of September, and at that time the government House leader withdrew it from the list and didn't bring it forward. There were discussions. He postponed it. He didn't bring it forward. He chose not to because he was playing with this issue. He wanted to make sure—

Hon Mr Cooke: You can make all the argument you want, but you're the one who's holding up the cheques, not us.

The Acting Speaker: Will the government House leader please allow the member for Bruce to continue his debate. I realize there is a great deal of disagreement here, but you will have your turn. The member for Bruce has the floor.

1720

Mr Elston: What is occurring now is exactly what these people are all about. They are manipulating the procedures of this place to make sure that we cannot, that we will not, that we will never be able to criticize them for anything. When we raise the issues, they shout us down. They will use any language they think they have to to make sure we are injured by their interjections.

It is not true. The government House leader has always had it within his ability to call this motion, and in fact it was up for calling an awful lot earlier than now, but he kept pushing it back and pushing it back.

In respect of this committee assignment motion, I have advised the member on more than one occasion that I would be speaking about the committees and about how I see this place working, or better put, not working. He put

this on the day he thought he would call supply so that he could shut me up.

He will not keep me quiet by all the manipulation that is in his hands, by all the power he has bestowed on himself through these standing orders. I will not allow him to prevent me from speaking. I said that when these rules were passed. I have said it to him personally. I have said it to many of the people in this place. Whatever you do and however you plan to do it, I will not be prevented from speaking my piece about the way this House has evolved to the current day.

When these people believe that efficiency is democracy, they have forsaken all their forefathers in the CCF and in the New Democratic Party. If there was one thing I believed when I was looking at the development of those parties, it was that the founders of the New Democratic Party had a thrilling sense of democracy, that they had an enviable history of complying with the democratic organizations at the local levels and throughout their party structures, that they adhered to the words of their women and men members at the grass roots, that they abided by the principles of democratic formation and that efficiency wasn't the issue that struck them in their party's organizations, but effective democracy was.

Well, these people sniffed power. These people have experienced power. These people have been moved by power to sacrifice democracy for efficiency. They have confused their will with the democratic will. They have confused their position with an unsellable position on all of their public positions. They have really determined that no work needs to be done in the standing committees and that the people who are now being substituted on to those committees by this resolution are not going to be needed. The men and women won't have any real work to do because the directions will come from the Premier's office, because the directions were coming from the minister's office, and they are being sent forward by the whip's office on to those committees to make sure that nothing untoward happens and that nothing can be done by the minority members of the committees.

What a travesty. What belligerence. What a usurpation of the democratic institutions of this province by the New Democrats. I would like to see the member for Hamilton East go in and organize his labour unions on the basis that nobody could speak freely, that nobody could have any time to question the positions being put by the leadership. I would like him to go in and say that this is an undemocratic institution, that nobody will be able to have their words, and if you do have your words it will be for a matter of two or three minutes at a time.

The standing orders now are such that there is a stranglehold on freedom of speech in this province. I am very much concerned by that. There is a stranglehold on all the men and women who are being substituted on to the standing committees. The direction does not come from the committee any more. It comes from the Premier's office. It comes from the chief government whip. It's her job. She takes the message from the cabinet, of which she's a member, and she takes the message from her caucus and she makes sure the committees do the bidding of the government.

That's all that happens. They've got more members than we have. You know what really frustrated me more than anything else? It was standing in this House and addressing Mr Speaker himself, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere and a democrat by nature, and being told that unless the majority membership on a committee raised an issue about problems in the standing orders being applied in the committees, he could not do anything for the members of this House to protect their minority rights.

He said that unless the majority—which of course in the committee is really the New Democrats—allowed for a matter of a violation of the standing orders to come forward to him, he would have nothing to do with the matter because it was fully under the control of the committee. These men and women now are going to abide by the fact that there is nothing, nothing that can protect them against the will of the majority, the New Democrats. Nothing, nothing can protect us against the committee dominated by the government.

They can have their way. They can violate every standing order in this book that applies to the standing committees. They can violate every tradition that's talked about in this book, Erksine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, in the standing committees. They can violate everything that is said in the *Beauchesne* book, which is a text we use as part of the foundation for the administration of business in this House. They can violate everything that has been traditional in the committee and they can get away with it, because before it comes here, the committee members who feel affronted must get a majority vote and then a report by their Chair to this place to have the matter resolved.

When is it going to happen? Never. Never. We have the examples. Bill 40 is one of the best examples of the most blatant violation of parliamentary tradition in our history, and it was all because there was a decision in the mind of the member for Hamilton East, the Minister of Labour, that said: "I don't want to bother with all of these complaints. I don't want to bother with any of this nonsense about democracy. I want efficiency and I want to drive this down the throat of anyone who has a question. I don't want to listen or be confronted by those people who have complaints. In fact, I won't ever bother going there."

That's what these men and women are going to have to put up with. They're going to have to put up with the fact that when the minister decides or when the Premier decides—goodness knows when the Premier will be back in this place; he's hardly ever here anyway. But when the letters of instruction are written to the committees by the minister or by the Premier or maybe a letter will be written by the Premier's executive assistant—who knows?—scheduling business, the will of the majority will make sure that these men and women won't have anything to say if every parliamentary tradition is violated in the standing committee, if every standing order, on its own, is violated.

I am very much concerned by that. That's why I want to stand and talk about this motion in regard to the appointment of these people. I'm really wondering, what is the use of these people being appointed to this committee, because what really do these committees do?

There are a couple of standing order provisions that allow the opposition to actually bring forward business that's of importance to us, and we tried to do that just this week. We filed, in its former form, a 123—which is now a 125—motion to study a matter about the investigation of the circumstances surrounding the invasion of the Leader of the Opposition's office and the member for Halton Centre's office by the provincial police at the behest of the Premier and the Treasurer.

The attempt in the committee, under a standing order that allows us to do so, was fully frustrated by the fact that the people the committee needed to attend refused to show up. The Treasurer refused to show up and help us deal with that item in the standing committee. The Premier refused to show up and help us investigate the issue in the standing committee, so the members who are going to be substituted on to that committee will soon discover that even though they have a job to do they can be frustrated at every turn by the Premier and by any other member of the government when they put in the whip to the majority of the members on that committee and shut them down.

1730

The standing orders are designed to protect the interests of the minority. In fact, there isn't any reason why that 125 now is available to us except that there was an acknowledgement when it first appeared that the opposition needed to have some of its own time to investigate some of its own public issues. That's what that was a recognition of, and now we find that the government can frustrate it merely by stonewalling the attendance of the chief and, most important of all, the witnesses.

There's probably a reason why those people refused to show up. It was because they didn't want to answer the embarrassing questions about why they sent the police to investigate opposition members and why they decided to use the provincial police as an instrument of intimidation against the people who were freely putting forth complaints about public policy decisions.

Interjection.

Mr Elston: It's very interesting that the member for Sudbury is over there sort of yelling.

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): Asking you to speak up.

Mr Elston: She has been noted for her cool and calm. I've seen her participate in events from time to time, I've been in committee with her from time to time, and it never bothered her if she had to speak up. I had to speak up because there was so much chatter. I had to bring it to the people's attention that the way the government works, it does it to frustrate the rights of the minority to do things that the standing orders allow us to do.

Interjection.

Mr Elston: I listen to Mr Wessenger over there. I guess I can call him by his surname because he is not sitting at his desk, but he likes to barrack. He's talking about Liberals thinking they're gods. Well, the activity carried on by this New Democratic Party these days, the manner in which it provides policy from on high and then requires it to be adopted, in a democratic institution, ex-

actly as it says, without any debate and without anything else, really does smack of a sense of being a deity in a way which has never been done, in my view, before. This is like the New Democrats descending from the mountain. That's the way they're treating Bill 40. Nobody can complain. Nobody has a reasonable complaint that needs to be heard in this land of ours. I must say, that is so offensive.

If the member for Simcoe Centre had been here in 1981 to 1985, he would have heard the member for Hamilton East, as he was then, complaining about the terrible government tactics of Bill Davis. He would have heard the then member for Riverdale complaining about the terrible tactics of the government. He would have heard Ross McClellan, as he now is and the former member that he was, complaining about the tactics of the Davis government. The complaints that were levelled against the practices of those days had merit, and I supported them. But the activities of Bill Davis pale by comparison to the activities of the people who are now in government.

For me, it says it all that they now are more in love with efficiency than with anything else. That is the sadness of the current New Democrats here in the province: efficiency over every other consideration, efficiency over democracy, efficiency beyond any other need for this democratic society we have. When you sacrifice democracy to efficiency, you sacrifice effectiveness, because people have no way of underscoring the mistakes that are being made by the people who are members of the executive council.

I am wondering why we are debating the substitution of these members into committee at all when I see this government undermining all the things that committees have formerly been able to do, when it is undermining the work of this place in the name of efficiency, when it is undermining our democratic institutions.

In the end, we will have to take our time to speak in the very small openings we are allowed to speak in this place. We are making one commitment to our constituents, one commitment to the people of the province, one commitment to the government: that when we are now given the chance to speak, when we are not shut down, when we are not shut up by their new version of the rules and their new interpretations, we will speak. Because we must speak: It is our duty; it is what we were elected to do.

That one commitment is enough to know that in terms of the committee work we will do whatever we can to be heard through the minority members on the standing committee, about to be joined by others who are being substituted in under this motion.

I thank you for allowing me to share my views with you.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Eves: I would like to speak briefly, in the time that's left for me, to government notice of motion number 18, standing on the order paper today.

Before I address that government notice of motion directly, I think I should say that while the government House leader may find it convenient to blame opposition members for government notice of motion number 20 not

being dealt with, I might remind him that it is the government House leader who determines the order of business and the orders of the day in this place every day. If he really thought government notice of motion number 20 was of utmost importance as opposed to number 18, he would have called government notice of motion number 20 instead of 18 and dealt with it.

As a matter of fact, I find it passing strange that he would not have called what he now considers to be important, at the 11th-and-a-half hour—he must be learning something from Brian Mulroney, I guess. Now, on Thursday afternoon on October 29, he decides it's very important. How come he didn't call it this past Monday, this past Tuesday, this past Wednesday? Because he thought that getting Bill 40 in committee of the whole was more important, as he just pointed out, than welfare recipients getting their cheques. Well, he's got what he wanted. He thought that Bill 40 in committee of the whole was more important.

As you well know, Mr Speaker, when you were here in a different capacity last evening as Chair of the committee of the whole House, there was a little bit of a foofaraw in here and, in my humble opinion, the rules were somewhat circumvented and bent to make sure that the government House leader got committee of the whole on Bill 40 yesterday.

I find it extremely offensive. I say to him that he has put the interests of passing Bill 40 in a certain stage above the interests of every person who was supposed to receive a cheque. So if by some strange passing fancy some people don't get a cheque, the person to blame is the government House leader, who could have called this order any time he wanted since this House reconvened in September. Some five weeks later, he now thinks it's important at 5:30 in the afternoon on the last Thursday before October 31.

1740

Hon Mr Cooke: You know that's nonsense.

Mr Eves: That is not nonsense. That is fact.

We should probably know what we're debating here this afternoon. The motion we are debating stands as government notice of motion number 18 on the order paper. It reads as follows in the name of Mr Cooke:

"That the following substitutions be made to the membership of the standing committees:

"On the standing committee on administration of justice: Mr Mills for Mr Wessinger, Ms Swarbrick for Mr Morrow

"On the standing committee on estimates: Mr Abel for Mr O'Connor, Mr Elston for Mr Sorbara, Ms Haeck for Mr Ferguson, Mr Rizzo for Mr Perruzza

"On the standing committee on finance and economic affairs: Mr Ferguson for Mr Christopherson, Mr Waters for Ms Ward (Don Mills), Mr Wilson (Kingston and the Islands) for Mr Ward (Brantford)

"On the standing committee on general government: Mr Mathysen for Mr Hope, Mr Morrow for Mr Ferguson

"On the standing committee on government agencies: Mr Cooper for Mr Ferguson, Mr Rizzo for Mr Wiseman

"On the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly: Mrs MacKinnon for Mr Cooper, Mr Wessinger for Mr Mills

"On the standing committee on the Ombudsman: Mr Abel for Mr Duignan, Ms Harrington for Mr Perruzza, Mr Mammoliti for Mr Johnson

"On the standing committee on public accounts: Mr Grandmaitre for Mr Sorbara, Mr Perruzza for Ms Haeck

"On the standing committee on regulations and private bills: Mr Fletcher for Mr Dadamo, Mr Hayes for Mr Farnan, Mr Perruzza for Mr Sutherland"—

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Read some rivers.

Mr Eves: No, I'm reading what your House leader considers important this afternoon.

"On the standing committee on resources development: Mr Hope for Mr Waters, Mr Ward (Brantford) for Mr Dadamo

"On the standing committee on social development: Mr Dadamo for Mr Drainville, Mr Farnan for Mrs Mathysen, Mr O'Connor for Mr Wilson (Kingston and the Islands)."

The date of that motion, Mr Speaker, was October 15, 1992. Perhaps members of the public out there don't understand what committees do around here, and I think perhaps we should talk about when committees sit and what they do. I think it would also help us to look at what some committees have before them right now. Perhaps we should talk about some of the substitutions being made. One can only surmise why some of them are being made. Obviously, some are being made because some members have been made cabinet ministers.

Hon Ms Gigantes: Read the rivers, Ernie. Come on.

Mr Eves: No, I'm talking directly to the motion.

Hon Mr Cooke: This is more important than sending out cheques.

Mr Eves: The committees; that's what you've decided.

Hon Mr Cooke: No, you're deciding right now.

Mr Eves: The committees sit on Mondays of each week that the Legislature is sitting. The justice committee sits in room 228, the resources development committee sits in committee room 1 and the social development committee sits in room 151.

Interjections.

Mr Eves: That's also known as the Amethyst Room, for the benefit of the Minister of Transportation over there.

On Tuesdays, all three caucuses have caucuses in the morning, and the committees sit in the afternoon as follows: justice committee in room 228, estimates committee in committee room 2 and social development again in room 151.

On Wednesday mornings, government agencies in room 228; the Ombudsman's committee in room 151; regulations and private bills in committee room 1. Wednesday afternoon, estimates committee in committee room 2, Legislative Assembly committee in committee room 151 and resources development in committee room 1.

On Thursdays, the finance and economic affairs committee sits in committee room 1, general government in room 151, public accounts in room 228. On Thursday afternoons, general government in 151 and the finance committee in committee room 1.

I think it is also kind of important that we talk about some of the work some of these committees have before them right now and the effect some of the new standing orders that this government insisted upon have had on committees in this place.

The standing committee on the administration of justice, for example, right now has a designated matter that was sent to it pursuant to standing order 125—it used to be standing order 123—relating to the decision by the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Minister of the Environment, Deputy Minister of the Environment and the executive council of Ontario to ask the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate matters of Ontario's public service and members of provincial Parliament regarding the release of government information to those same members of provincial Parliament.

That is a very important issue, and it's an issue that I have watched, interestingly, the government try to avoid dealing with. At all costs, they have tried to avoid dealing with the standing order referral of this particular issue in this item under standing order 125. I can understand their reluctance in not wanting to deal with this before the committee because, heaven forbid, if everybody who has been summoned by the committee ever appeared and told everything they knew, the government, indeed, might be in a great deal of trouble, and some very important members of the government might be in a great deal of trouble.

Right now we also have before the standing committee on resources development, I believe, a reference with respect to the bicycle helmet bill that was introduced by my good friend our whip, the member for London North, and I understand that it only has a couple more days. The government has sought a report, which is coming back before the committee, and assuming that this report is acceptable, that matter will be dealt with.

That committee also has before it another standing order 125 referral, and it'll be interesting to see if the government decides to try to stifle it and put it on hold as well. That is the referral with respect to Mr Holt's dismissal at Ontario Hydro. Despite the protestations of the Minister of Energy that he did not do such a thing, despite the fact that he stood in the House one day and said that he did not instruct the board to do any such thing, lo and behold, my colleague the member for Lanark-Renfrew produces a letter signed by the very same Minister of Energy who claimed that he did not do any such thing, saying that Mr Holt indeed was dismissed and would be dismissed.

Now the government is going to have a decision to make, because now it has decided that it wants to send the two pay equity bills, Bills 168 and 169, to committee. I can just see it all now. We're going to go to a House leaders' meeting and the government House leader is going to say, "Oh, we can't deal with that dicey issue of Mr Holt; we've got to deal with Bills 168 and 169 first."

He's probably going to do this about the 16th or 17th, whatever that Thursday is that week of November, because it's our next House leaders' meeting, or two House leaders' meetings from now, and then he's going to tell us that he wants to ram through the pay equity bills by December 10. He's going to give us about two and a half to three weeks' notice, and that's how he thinks business should be conducted in this place.

Hon Mr Cooke: That's why we talked about dealing with it in the spring.

Mr Eves: No, that isn't why we talked about dealing with it in the spring.

Hon Mr Cooke: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd like to ask for unanimous consent to move to government notice of motion 20 so that the government may get supply and send out the cheques that are due on October 31. So I ask for unanimous consent.

The Acting Speaker: You do not have the floor. The honourable member for Parry Sound has the floor. Please continue.

Mr Eves: I just might want to say to the people out there that in fact it is our understanding that social assistance recipients' cheques have already been mailed to them, so the picture that the government House leader tries to paint is not entirely accurate or fair. For people who need social assistance cheques, it is our understanding that those cheques have already been mailed and those social assistance recipients will be receiving them in any event.

The government House leader knows very well that he can deal with this issue like his government is wont to do: retroactively. Just stop and think about some of the pieces of legislation this government, which now says it can't do anything retroactively when it suits its convenient political purpose, has passed in the last 26 months that have been retroactively effective. Give me a break. You do it every day. You've taken retroactivity and made an absolute farce of it with piece of legislation after piece of legislation.

1750

Let's talk for a moment about the standing committee on the Ombudsman. There is a very interesting committee indeed. I don't know how we've gotten to this point, but we seem to have gotten to a point in this place where the Ombudsman of Ontario seems to be at loggerheads with the Ombudsman committee of the Ontario Legislature.

I can recall a frantic phone call from the Ombudsman during the summer recess—what summer recess we had, because we didn't leave here until July 25, if my memory serves me correctly—indicating that she would like to come and meet me in my office. I presume she made the same request of the other two House leaders as well, because she couldn't get anywhere with respect to a request she made to the Ombudsman committee of this Legislature. She indicated to me that all she was requesting was an opportunity to be heard by the committee for the first day or two.

That is a very difficult issue indeed and a very worthwhile endeavour that that committee is dealing with, for example.

Look at the London annexation bill, which of course has been sent to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. That committee will be dealing with the city of London annexation legislation. There has been agreement that that committee will discuss the bill. It sits Thursdays all day, mornings and afternoons, as my understanding has it, and at least two of those Thursdays will be used for public hearings. Another two Thursdays will be used for clause-by-clause deliberation. If there are enough people who want to appear before the committee, and I imagine there may well be, then there will be three Thursdays set aside for public hearings and one Thursday for clause-by-clause deliberation of the bill.

While I understand that my colleague the member for London North and others are very supportive of that particular piece of legislation, I do want to say that there is a very concerning aspect to that bill in that the public utilities commission is done away with, almost as a passing of the hand, in an amalgamation bill. I find that a very frightening precedent indeed. I know many of my colleagues are quite concerned about that issue, as indeed members of all three parties should be concerned about the precedent that is being set with respect to that particular piece of legislation.

The government House leader, in his hurry to have the rules amended last June and July, amended the standing orders by way of resolution number 11, standing in his name. I'm not going to read the whole thing, but the following parts of the standing orders were amended as follows:

"That standing order 6(a) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"6(a) During a Parliament, the House shall meet:

"(i) from the Monday following the week prescribed by the regulations made under the Education Act for the school holiday in March to the Thursday preceding Victoria Day and from the first Monday following Victoria Day to the fourth Thursday in June; and

"(ii) from the fourth Monday in September to the Thursday preceding the week in which Remembrance Day falls and from the Monday of the week following Remembrance Day to the second Thursday in December."

All that gobbledegook basically means, in common sense, that the government doesn't want to be here as often as it was here before. They want to sit two weeks less a year so they don't have to subject themselves to question period. They don't have to be here until the Thursday just before the Christmas holiday and they get another week off to boot during the course of the year.

The problem I have with that is it might be nice to see some good faith on behalf of the government, that when the House does sit now, even two fewer weeks a year, most cabinet ministers and certainly the Premier of the province should be here. How many days have you seen the Premier of this province in his place during question period since this House reconvened in September?

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Three.

Mr Eves: Three, the member for St Catharines says. Now, that may be understandable to a large degree with respect to the referendum issue before us, and I understand

how the Premier of the province might want to be out there talking about the referendum, but I do have a problem with what has happened since the referendum. I do have a problem when the Premier of the province has only been in this place for three days and now has to leave at 2:45. He can't even see fit to stick it through an entire question period. I find great difficulty with that. I find great difficulty with the fact that he couldn't be here to answer questions today but he wasn't too tired to be on a plane to Sault Ste Marie to do a sod-turning this afternoon. I find it a little tough to understand that as well.

It has been suggested by some members of the government that the Premier may be a little tired. So what's he going to do when he's a little tired? On November 5 he's going to leave here and go on a 16-day jaunt to the Far East. That's his rest and relaxation time, I guess, R&R, instead of being here. I'd suggest that maybe he should—

Mr Len Wood (Cochrane North): Where's Mike Harris? Where's McClelland?

Mr Eves: Where's Mike Harris? If you want to compare Mike Harris's attendance record to this Premier's attendance record, he attends question period more often in one week than your Premier has the whole time the House has sat this fall.

Also speaking very directly to this particular motion, I'd like to point out that not only did the government House leader have a choice of which order he called first today—and if indeed his priority was interim supply, surely he would have called that first, but that wasn't his first priority—I want to read the new standing order 23(a) that this House leader wanted passed and did pass when the rules were amended:

"23(a) Except where otherwise expressly provided by the standing orders, when the Speaker is in the chair, no member shall speak for more than 30 minutes.

"(b) Notwithstanding clause (a), the first speaker for any recognized party in the House may speak for not more than 90 minutes in the following circumstances:

"(i) debate on second reading of a government bill.

"(ii) debate on third reading of a government bill.

"(iii) debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

"(iv) debate on the budget motion.

"(v) debate on the interim supply motion.

"(vi) debate on any other substantive government motion."

One interesting little quirk to this whole thing here this afternoon is that indeed the government House leader could have treated this, if he wanted to today, as a motion to be moved during motions, but he chose to treat it as a substantive motion. He chose, by doing that—it was his decision, which he could have done or not done—to give, knowing full well that it meant that each opposition lead-off speaker would now have 90 minutes to speak instead of 30—that was his choice and his choice alone, and he chose it.

Hon Mr Cooke: This is your choice: \$180 million being held up.

Mr Stockwell: Because you're incompetent.

Interjections.

Mr Stockwell: He's calling you a liar, Ernie.

Mr Eves: The interjection of the government House leader is simply not accurate. It's not an accurate account of what happened at the House leaders' meeting today. Never at any time during the House leaders' meeting this morning did I indicate to the government House leader that he would have this motion today. I never made a comment on it; I was never asked about it.

He asked me, "If there's a vote on interim supply, will you put it to a vote or will you let it go?" My response was, "There will be a vote."

1800

Hon Mr Cooke: What does that say to everybody?

Mr Eves: What it should have said to you was, if you wanted interim supply passed, you should have called it. If interim supply was so important to you and you were concerned about those cheques, you should have called it yesterday instead of ramming through Bill 40 clause by clause. That was more important. Mr Mackenzie's bill for Bob White was more important than those cheques.

You have nobody to blame but yourself. You could have called it yesterday, the day before yesterday, Monday, last Thursday, the Wednesday before that, the Tuesday before that, the Monday before that. You can go all the way back to when the House reconvened in September. You could have called it any day for five weeks, but you waited till 6 o'clock on the last day because Bob wanted his bill. That's what you did. It was your choice. It was your choice. It's your priority. How do you like your choice now?

I have it on good authority that the family benefits cheques went out yesterday, so lest the government House leader led us to believe that needy people out there will not get their cheques, the reality is they went out yesterday. Assuming that the postal system works, which is a tenuous proposition at the best of times, they will indeed be receiving their cheques, as they were supposed to. The fearmongering on the part of the government House leader is just that: fearmongering.

I can't help it if he decided that passing Bill 40 in committee of the whole was more important than dealing with interim supply. That was not my choice. That was not the choice of the House leader for the Liberal Party. That was his choice. He has the opportunity to call and determine the business of the House.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Eves: This afternoon he thought the committee motion was more important than an interim supply motion.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Eves: I'd like to adjourn the debate, Mr Speaker, it being past 6 of the clock.

The Acting Speaker: It is past 6 of the clock. We also have a late show, but I would like the government House leader to provide us with a schedule for next week's business.

Hon Mr Cooke: Since what has happened this afternoon, I don't have a schedule. I find it interesting that they

have decided to hold up supply because they're opposed to Bill 40. I thank the House leader for the third party for telling us the truth this afternoon. This is all about Bill 40.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: If the House leader is going to supply us with a schedule of business for next week, I'm prepared to listen, but the House leader does not offer any other information.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. We, I gather, do not have a schedule for next week's business. Therefore, pursuant to standing order 34, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made.

The member for Mississauga West has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer given yesterday by the Premier to a question. The honourable member for Mississauga West will have five minutes to make his presentation, at which time the Premier or his representative will have five minutes to reply.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, before the five minutes begin, you said "the Premier or his representative." Could I have some indication if there is a representative of the Premier? My understanding is that only his parliamentary assistant would qualify to respond to this. His parliamentary assistant, I believe, is the member for Fort York, who is not in attendance. I just ask for that clarification because you said "his representative." I want to know if you're going to allow some other person.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): His representative is, as you have correctly stated, the parliamentary assistant, who is the only person who can speak in his place. The honourable member for Mississauga West has the floor.

Mr Mahoney: I'm assuming that since the Premier is not here and the parliamentary assistant is not here, I will simply make my remarks and there will be no response to this request, to this dissatisfaction, from the government side. I hope that changes. I hope the parliamentary assistant at least, or the Premier, is in the outer lobby and will attempt to come in, because these are very real concerns when members of the opposition express their dissatisfaction with answers given by ministers. If they were not to respond, this would obviously be a slap in the face, not only to me but to all members of the opposition and a clear recognition that the government doesn't really care about the minority, who also represent people in this province. I hope that is not the case, but I'm afraid that perhaps it is.

Mr Speaker, one of the reasons I was dissatisfied was that you will recall, sir, that when I asked my question, it was very specific, asking the Premier to respond to the requests of the police, particularly the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association, to have a meeting without the preconditions the Premier put on. They said they want open and honest and frank discussion. The Premier's response to that question was to stand up, and here's his opening line, "I just want to get on the record a comment made by Chief Lunney, who's the chief of police in Peel."

It strikes me as just a little passing strange that when I ask him to respond to a request from the Metro police association, he would stand up, obviously prepared—I guess he knew I was going to ask him this—and instead of responding to the concerns of the police, he quotes, and quotes, frankly, out of context, from information he had attained from a release from Chief Lunney.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): Did he mislead us?

Mr Mahoney: It was close to misleading.

Had he read the entire release, he would have said that this was a release called Network, from Peel Regional Police, and it's signed by the chief, and no mistake, the chief is not happy about the job action. But clearly the chief is not happy, nor are the men and women in Peel region, nor are the men and women in every police force in this province, 5,000 to 6,000 of them on the front lawn, demanding that the Premier simply sit and talk, without preconditions, without requiring to stop their job action; to listen to them. I believe at one stage they even backed down and said, "Just give us 10 minutes." The Premier chooses to ignore that.

Then he gets up and in his defence, rather than telling us why it is he refuses to meet, which we have to surmise, he talks about public safety being in jeopardy. He even says, "That's what's at risk here, public safety."

If he really believes there is a risk to public safety, he is the first minister of the land in this province, and why would he not demand a meeting with the police, never mind requesting it? Why would he not, if he believed for

one minute that the public was at jeopardy? It is his responsibility and the responsibility of this government to call the police in and say, "How can we resolve this problem?" to sit at the table, to get to the table and talk.

That's what Chief Lunney asked for. Chief Lunney said that it's time to get to the table and talk. He said clearly that he wanted the executive to meet with government officials, with or without the other police associations, and give them a documented list of the grievances. Here's Chief Lunney offering to be a representative on behalf of the Peel Regional Police Association, "Give them a documented list of your grievances and an understanding of your desires for settlement."

The key is that the police want to settle this matter. No one in the police associations, the men and women who serve and protect our province, no one involved in policing in this province, is happy that they have been forced to go to a job action. Yesterday on the front lawn they were saying how much they regret that they had to do this.

Instead, what do we get? The Premier, by not showing up here today, by not responding to this legitimate concern, by not sending a representative to speak on his behalf, and with one member of the government sitting in this audience, just shows his contempt for this place, his contempt for democracy and I—

The Acting Speaker: Order. There being no one present to respond, the motion to adjourn is deemed to have been carried. This House now stands adjourned until Monday, November 2, at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1811.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
L-72	2926	2	16	Hon Mr Rae: —that has the full support of govern-

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziembra, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	de l'Économie leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Finance and economic affairs/ Finances et affaires économiques

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher, Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland, Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin, Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson, Lawrence O'Connor, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Regulations and private bills/ Règlements et projets de loi privés

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan, Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola, Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Bob Huget
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Daniel Waters, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 2 November 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 2 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 2 November 1992

The House met at 1334.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

REPORT ON RACE RELATIONS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): The final report of the Clare Lewis Race Relations and Policing Task Force was to have been released on October 27. That date has come and gone and we are still waiting for the report.

My understanding is that the report is being held up until the French translation is completed, although the task force's two interim reports, as you recall, were released without waiting for the French text to be prepared.

Somehow it's suggested that the Premier's office asked or told the task force not to release the report at this time. Can the Premier tell us if he or someone from his staff called the task force to ask it not to release the report last week? It was due last week. If this is the case, is it appropriate for the Premier's office to intervene in the work of an independent task force? We have seen that happen before, anyhow. If the report has been completed, why should it not be released?

I also gather that the Solicitor General or anyone in his office somehow has seen the report in either a final or a draft form. I want to know if they have seen that.

Can the Solicitor General tell us when the report will be made public?

The Premier announced the re-establishment of the task force with much fanfare. Will he tell us what's going on now, because we don't know. Maybe this report can shed some light on what is happening with the situation with the police and the government at this time.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): This morning the Coalition to Keep Ontario Working presented me with some bricks intended for presentation to the NDP cabinet. These bricks illustrate their frustration and anger at the government's refusal to recognize the devastating impact Bill 40 will have on our economy.

Each of these bricks was once part of a productive factory or commercial building which provided employees with jobs and housed equipment that produced income and goods for our province. It is ironic that the one industry benefiting from this government's policies is the demolition industry which, I am told, is the largest-growth industry in Ontario.

I should point out that unlike the early 1980s, when there was also much demolition, these demolitions today are not for the purposes of rebuilding; they are simply to get the buildings off the tax rolls. The buildings these represent have been torn down and the site is now a vacant lot. The companies have closed and the employees have lost their jobs.

I can assure you that when Bill 40 is passed, more bricks will go to the dump and thousands of people will lose their jobs. Although this government rejects the assertion that Bill 40 will kill jobs, it has never conducted an economic impact study of its own.

I urge this government to kill Bill 40 before it kills jobs and to remember that you have a responsibility to build Ontario's economy, not destroy it.

ALMOST HOME

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): I rise to acknowledge a most welcome event in the Kingston area, the official opening of Almost Home, a home away from home for families with sick children.

Every month Kingston's two acute care hospitals, the General and Hotel Dieu, treat about 100 children with serious medical problems. Many of these children face long, hard and often frightening fights with illness and disability.

It is essential that these young patients receive support from their families. This becomes a major challenge when the child could be sick for weeks, months or even years. There are also new stresses on parents and brothers and sisters. Family life is disrupted, there is financial strain from extra expenses and continual tiredness from worry, travel—since the children often live an average of 70 kilometres from Kingston—and fitful sleep.

Almost Home will be a haven for these families. Situated within walking distance of both hospitals, it will provide families with accommodation in a home-like setting, an opportunity to prepare their own meals and a place where they can be close to their child yet get away from the hospital for a few hours. There will also be a variety of professional and volunteer services to help nurture the emotional health of all family members. Almost Home represents an important advance in caring for the whole child, a chance to combine the best in medical treatment with the long-term benefits of emotional health.

A service like this isn't cheap. It will cost almost \$1 million just to set up and there will be operating costs as well. Perhaps most impressive of all is that the funding for Almost Home is entirely in the hands of volunteers, who have raised nearly 75% of their capital costs.

I encourage everyone in the large area served by Kingston's medical facilities to visit Almost Home at 118 William Street.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member's time has expired.

1340

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): At 11 am today on the front steps of the Legislature, the Coalition to

Keep Ontario Working presented bricks, such as these, for all MPPs. With it went a letter, which reads in part:

"To all provincial ministers:

"Dear Minister:

"This brick was once part of a productive factory. It housed employees and equipment that produced income and goods for our province. It paid federal, provincial and municipal taxes. Today this brick is likely destined to become landfill.

"The company enclosed has been shut. The employees have lost their jobs. The building has been torn down and the site is a vacant lot. As you prepare to vote on Bill 40, please remember that if it passes, millions of bricks will be sent to the dump, and hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs and pay.

"The Coalition to Keep Ontario Working asks all MPPs to help prevent this. Kill Bill 40 before it kills jobs. Please keep this brick as a reminder of your responsibility to the public: to build the Ontario economy, not destroy it through legislation which drives out employment.

"Bricks should be building materials, not landfill."

Bill 40 is being pushed ahead by the government without any idea as to the effect it will have on the manufacturing, retail, agricultural and service sectors. I believe that for a government to do this, when so many people have lost their jobs and many others are worried whether the job they have today will be there tomorrow, is to the workers of this province an irresponsible action on behalf of the government.

It is time to stop this bill.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Last Thursday, her worship Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga personally delivered 50,000 coupons to Premier Bob Rae from people who oppose Bill 40, yet the Premier did not come out of his office to accept the mayor's 150 pounds of mail.

Mayor McCallion's mail is typical of what I have heard from my constituents. Of the 400 people who have contacted me, only five supported the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act. I have heard from individuals, businesses, government agencies and social service providers, including the Peel Board of Education, the city of Mississauga, the Mississauga Board of Trade and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

For a more accurate knowledge of my community's views, I distributed a survey, and 95% of respondents strongly disapproved of the NDP's labour law agenda, while 83% strongly agreed that the labour law reform package would make Ontario a much less attractive place to do business. An astonishing 48% of the businesses surveyed said they would consider moving to another jurisdiction if the plan becomes law.

To pass Bill 40 is to ignore the will of the people. Premier Rae, with one in 10 Ontarians out of work already, why are you trying to kill jobs, kill investment and kill our economy? Please listen to the people. While you still can, withdraw Bill 40.

LOCAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Donald Abel (Wentworth North): Last Thursday, I participated in a town hall meeting held in Flamborough which was organized by the Wentworth North NDP riding association. That evening's topic for discussion was local rural development.

The issue was indeed topical, as many of my constituents from Dundas and Flamborough have been experiencing problems with new developments that seem to be all too hastily encouraged by municipal governments. Antrim Glen Estates and the Pleasantview development came immediately to mind.

I have lived in Wentworth North all my life, and I was greatly encouraged by the discussion that took place at this meeting of concerned and informed citizens. It was a relief to hear that people felt the development of their community is not unconditionally a good thing. Many people are disheartened by the haphazard approach to local development with no vision for the future, and which seems to discourage community consultation and participation.

Development was considered positive only when it is sustainable, and sustainable was understood to mean not only respect for the environment, but also for the cultural and historical heritage of our community. The local meeting was enthusiastic about the proposed reforms to the Ontario Heritage Act, and expressed its interest in an act with enough teeth in it to protect the integrity and beauty of its communities.

These people care about their community. The essence of any community lies with the expression of its people. It is that which keeps us together and, by providing insight into our past, leads us to understand our present and directs us towards our future.

LAYOFFS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): In the autumn of 1991, I warned Premier Rae and members of the government about the impending closure of General Motors' operations in St Catharines as part of the downsizing and restructuring plans of General Motors. During my questions, statements and speeches in the House, I expressed concerns specifically about the possible closure of the foundry and the engine plant in St Catharines, the area I represent, and urged the Premier and his ministers to avoid policies and rhetoric that might discourage GM from retaining its investment in Ontario and recommended that they do everything possible to encourage GM to keep all of its Ontario operations open.

Once again, I'm alerting the Premier to the potential further job losses at GM, as corporate headquarters slashes at least 60,000 jobs and possibly as many as 120,000 in total. GM workers in St Catharines, Oshawa, London and Windsor are worried that their jobs could be lost in the next GM blood-letting. This time, they will want the provincial government to devote all of its attention to their future.

Premier Rae, who seems to be intent upon embarking upon yet another foreign tour, this time to Asia, should recognize that the workers at GM plants in Ontario want him to remain here to fight for their jobs. The only trip

Bob Rae should be taking is to Detroit, to make the case for GM workers and their jobs. I call upon the Premier to abandon his globe-trotting and to present to General Motors the best possible case to keep all of its Ontario operations open and the jobs intact.

TONY ROMAN

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Henry Van Dyke said there's only one way to get ready for immortality, and that is to love this life and live it as bravely and faithfully and cheerfully as we can.

So it was with Markham's mayor, Tony Roman. He fought bravely, faithfully and cheerfully, and now he is in the company of the saints, having passed away last Friday. He was our town's leading architect, leading Markham into growth with vision and balance. He was a man of Christian faith, living a life of service to the Almighty and all people. He was our community's best promoter, bringing in new business and prosperity. He was a friend to the great and the small and was able to walk and talk comfortably with all people. As mayor, regional chairman, MP, politician, athlete, businessman, family man, as a Christian, he served his community and his country with distinction.

To his wife, Elsie, and all his family we extend our sympathy. We have been blessed to have known him and to have been able to work with him. His contribution to our community is immortal. May all of us try to embody his dedication to principle.

COMMUNITY CARE

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I want to use my 90 seconds to sing the praises on the occasion of the 15th anniversary for Community Care, located in Bowmanville in my riding of Durham East. In my riding, seniors are increasingly turning to Community Care programs to provide the support they need to stay independent in their homes.

In the first six months of this year, 241 people have benefited from a travelling foot care clinic, another 303 have been driven to medical and social appointments and dozens of others regularly receive a hot lunch through Meals on Wheels. By the end of the year, volunteers will likely have fielded more than a thousand inquiries, ranging from income tax to requests for health information. They have an annual budget of \$140,000 from various government ministries, municipal grants and charitable donations. Limited funds means a reliance on volunteers. Bowmanville Community Care has a pool of 350 unpaid workers who this year have contributed 10,000 hours of volunteer work.

If you are watching this on television and you live in Durham East, please consider helping others, and help yourself as well. They need volunteers now. Volunteering is a great way to make connections and is ideal for building self-confidence. If you can help, please call 623-2261 and feel better for it.

1350

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): On Wednesday, October 28, 1992, the member for Bruce indicated that he desired to give notice of a reasoned amendment. The member attempted to give that notice orally and was interrupted and told that the procedure for giving notice in this House is that it be laid on the table in writing. I draw the member's attention to standing order 53, which states, "All notices required by the standing orders of the House or otherwise shall be laid on the table"—or filed with the Clerk of the House—"before 5 pm and printed on the Orders and Notices paper for the following day."

I would point out that this standing order in no way distinguishes between various types of substantive motions. It applies equally to notice of reasoned amendments as it does to opposition day notice or notice of a government motion.

The practice in this House has been that notice is written. The reason for this long-standing practice is both practical and simple: Notice is to be printed on the Orders and Notices paper so that every member may be apprised of it the day following its tabling or filing. To ensure the accuracy of such a notice, it is necessary that it be provided in writing.

As to the question of whether or not the member is at liberty to give notice orally prior to providing it in written form, I would like to refer to a decision made by the Deputy Speaker on March 27, 1990, wherein he prevented a member from reading his notice of motion with respect to an opposition day by indicating that: "It is not the standard practice to read the resolution. You may table it if you want."

In addition to our practice in this regard, there is a more fundamental difficulty with providing notice orally; that is, we do not have a provision in our procedures that would allow a member the floor to give notice. We do not have a routine proceeding that is titled "Notice," nor do we have any other standing order that sets out a procedure for giving notice of a substantive motion orally. It could not, for example, be done on a point of order, as the member for Bruce attempted to do.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Also last Wednesday, the member for Ottawa West, Mr Chiarelli, informed the House that the Premier had responded to a question during oral question period on a matter currently before the Ontario Municipal Board, contrary to the sub judice rule contained in standing order 23(g). The member for York Centre, Mr Sorbara, rose in the House the next day to the same effect.

I have reviewed the Hansard for both days, the written submission of the member for Ottawa West, several parliamentary authorities and standing order 23(g).

Let me say at the outset that this standing order requires the Speaker to call a member to order "where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Speaker that further reference would

create a real and substantial danger of prejudice to the proceeding."

I am not satisfied that the requirements of the standing order have been met in the case at hand, and accordingly I do not find anything out of order. However, had I ruled otherwise, members may have been prevented from continuing to place questions or to make responses in oral question period concerning certain aspects of the proceeding that is before the board. Members can appreciate, then, that the sub judice rule is invoked only in exceptional situations and that its invocation has consequences with respect to members' ability to speak.

I thank the member for Ottawa West and the member for York Centre for raising this matter in the House.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): While I'm on my feet, I would like to take this occasion to answer a few questions put to me last Thursday about the procedure followed by the House and in committee of the whole last Wednesday evening.

Let me first state the practical circumstances as they were then in committee of the whole. The Chair of that committee, Mr Villeneuve, was conducting business on Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment, following the procedure as described in the allocation-of-time motion passed on July 14, 1992.

I will quote to you here, as I quoted to you on Wednesday evening, the pertinent sentence which dictated the conduct of the Chair:

"At 5:45 pm on that sessional day, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto and report the bill to the House."

It is my opinion that that sentence is an extremely clear one. There can be no doubt as to what day it was: It was the second sessional day in committee. There can be no doubt, as well, as to what time it was: It was 5:45 on the second sessional day. There can also be no doubt as to the imperative nature of that order in its use of the word "shall" to guide the manner in which the Chair must dispose of that particular stage of the bill.

During those proceedings, a point of order was raised, a ruling given, and that ruling appealed to the Speaker. I then took the chair for the express purpose of entertaining the appeal of the Chair's ruling, and the mace was put on the table, as is necessary when the Speaker is in the chair.

After considering and upholding the Chair's ruling, I had no alternative but to leave the chair in order for the House to revert to committee of the whole so that it could continue to abide by the order of July 14. There was no other possibility at that point, and I would have been disregarding the order of the House had I done otherwise.

I hope these few words will help explain the proceedings of Wednesday night.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

WIFE ASSAULT PREVENTION MONTH

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister Responsible for Women's Issues): I would like to announce that November is Wife Assault Prevention Month in Ontario. Today marks the beginning of the seventh annual wife assault public education campaign.

We have encouraging news about the effectiveness of the wife assault public education campaign. Market research conducted after last November's campaign shows that Ontarians' attitudes towards wife assault are changing.

The 1991 campaign sought to communicate two central ideas: that psychological abuse is part of wife assault, and that men are responsible for stopping the violence. Ontarians appear to have understood both these messages.

The majority of those surveyed, 72%, placed the responsibility for ending wife assault squarely with men. An even larger majority, 82%, now understand that emotional and psychological abuse are as damaging as physical abuse. And 85% of those surveyed see that discarding or destroying a woman's possessions or keeping her isolated from friends and family is abusive behaviour.

The inroads that have been made in expanding the public's definition of wife assault are particularly evident among men. Previously, men were less likely than women to consider psychological and verbal abuse to be part of wife assault. This difference in perceptions has virtually disappeared. In short, we are making progress.

Public education is perhaps our greatest hope for effecting change in this area over the long term. When all people come to see wife assault for the crime that it is, when our societal institutions cease to overlook it, then the women of the next generation will have a real chance at equality.

This government is working to ensure that our messages about wife assault reach all men and women in this province, especially those who may not have received them thus far. The various communities within Ontario will approach this issue in different ways, and our methods of communication must be sensitive to that diversity.

To this end, the Ontario women's directorate is working with community groups to develop wife assault brochures in 17 languages, including Cambodian, Polish, Vietnamese, Arabic and Hindi. This year's campaign also includes radio ads in 11 languages, including Ojicree, Mohawk, Portuguese and Greek. Newspaper ads will be run in 14 languages, and 114 organizations have received a total of \$200,000 for public education programs geared to the needs of their own communities. We will also rebroadcast two television commercials first aired last year in both English and French. Both reinforce the campaign theme that no man has the right to assault a woman.

While the results of the post-campaign survey are welcome and encouraging in terms of the goal of eliminating wife assault, we have really just begun. We cannot allow ourselves to become complacent or to slow our pursuit of that goal.

Since our election, we have increased funding aimed at the prevention of wife assault and sexual assault by more than \$25 million, bringing to \$88 million the total funding for these initiatives.

In the next year, we will concentrate on reviewing violence prevention programs across all relevant ministries to ensure that every dollar of the \$88 million is well spent.

In May 1991, we announced plans to integrate our wife assault and sexual assault prevention initiatives by 1994 into a combined strategy to prevent violence against women. Integration will not be an easy task. We are committed to ensuring that the communities representing survivors of violence, service providers and advocacy organizations have a role in framing the violence against women prevention initiative.

Other groups as well have valuable insights and expertise that should inform this process. Francophones, cultural, racial minority and immigrant women, and women with disabilities will be very important participants in our consultation process. We hope to begin the consultation early in the new year.

In April of this year I announced that aboriginal organizations and the Ontario government would be working as partners towards a strategy to address family violence in aboriginal communities. The aboriginal organizations have completed their consultations, and we will be considering their recommendations shortly.

1400

We, as a government, have made it a priority to end violence against women, children and other vulnerable people. By "vulnerable," we mean those who are particularly susceptible to abuses of authority or physical advantage. People with physical disabilities, for example, experience a high rate of physical and sexual abuse because of the sheer number of care givers upon whom they are dependent, because of the private nature of much of that care giving—hence, the opportunity for abuse—and because of their physical inability to resist any attacks. So while we have often spoken of issues around the abuse of women in this House, it is important that we consider all persons who are particularly vulnerable to violence and abuse.

The Minister of Health has announced that we will go forward with amendments to the Regulated Health Professions Act in order to respond to the incidence of sexual assault of patients by health care professionals. Those seeking medical assistance are particularly vulnerable to those who offer treatment and care. As we move towards a new direction of long-term care, we are also paying special attention to the safety needs of the elderly and the physically disabled. To this end, we are developing new standards of care to ensure the security and safety of long-term care clients, both in institutionalized settings and in community-based care situations.

We are also working to put effective policies and procedures in place in all adult institutional settings to prevent violence and to intervene appropriately when it does occur.

With respect to abuse occurring in correctional facilities, we have created a special complaints unit within the Ministry of Correctional Services to investigate complaints

of sexual harassment involving offenders and ministry staff. The Ministry of the Attorney General has taken the lead in ensuring that past abuse, such as that at St Joseph's, St John's and Grandview, is taken seriously, is dealt with appropriately and that survivors are provided with assistance to enable them to heal.

An example of our active involvement in implementing safeguards to maximize the protection from abuse of children in residential care can be seen in the special efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Education in the provincial schools. Indeed, protecting all children from all forms of abuse is crucial. We have established an inter-ministerial initiative to develop a strategy to reduce violence against children and we have revised the guidelines on child abuse for use by all professionals who deal with children. We anticipate and encourage the support and involvement of all our colleagues in this House for these initiatives because we take seriously their expressions of concern around violence against women, children and the vulnerable.

As we begin this Wife Assault Prevention Month, during which women's groups and other organizations' all across Ontario will focus on the prevention of wife assault, this government is doing its part to help change attitudes and reduce the incidence of wife assault. But no government can do the job alone.

With respect to wife assault, we depend upon the whole community to ensure that our society refuses to condone or tolerate this crime. Research tells us that six out of 10 Ontarians know either a man who assaults or an assaulted woman. This is a disturbing statistic. What this statistic means is that across this province, hundreds of thousands of women—our neighbours, our business colleagues, the mothers of our children's friends, our own mothers and sisters—are routinely beaten, humiliated and threatened by the men with whom they live. Some of these women end up in hospital emergency wards, some receive injuries that result in permanent disabilities, some of them are beaten to within an inch of their lives, others are literally beaten to death.

We, as a society, cannot allow this crime to continue. We, as a community, must take responsibility for ending the climate of acceptance that exists when people do and say nothing about this crime. We, as individuals, as members of provincial Parliament, as members of community organizations and businesses, can take it upon ourselves to bring discussion and condemnation of wife assault out into the open.

More men have to tell other men that their abusive behaviour is wrong. Women and men must stop believing that assaulted women are somehow responsible for their victimization. We all need to understand that assaulted women live in a state of siege. Like prisoners of war, they live by someone else's rules, isolated from family, friends and other sources of support. They are made to feel defenceless and powerless through frequent physical and psychological abuse.

These women do what they must to survive, things that may not make sense to those of us who stand on the other side of the barbed-wire fence. "Why does she stay with

him?" we ask. Is this really so hard to understand? When someone tells you he will kill you or your children if you leave, and when you have every reason to believe he will follow through on that threat, you reach for the doorknob at incalculable risk.

Given the 120 women who were killed by their intimate partners in Canada in 1991, an increase of 33% over the previous year, the fear of death for abused women is real. We must not malign an abused woman's weakness for staying with her partner; we must admire her strength for getting through yet another day of terror.

We need to work together to lift the shroud of silence which surrounds and perpetuates wife abuse. For many women, the enemy is not just the man who abuses them; it is also the silence of the community and the silence of those who try to deny and minimize the violence.

Wife Assault Prevention Month focuses attention on the efforts to counter wife assault, which continue year-round. This crime has no place in a civilized, just or enlightened society.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Statements by ministers? Responses? Official opposition, the member for Eglinton.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): As women's issues critic for the official opposition, I am pleased to add my support to the minister's efforts in declaring November Wife Assault Prevention Month.

Over the last seven years, there has been a concerted effort by government in two areas relating to wife assault and violence against women. The first is informing the public about the extent of it in our society, and the second is in changing attitudes.

The first is perhaps a little easier than the second, and the Ontario women's directorate certainly is to be commended for its work over the last seven years in trying to inform the public. I think we have all heard the statistics time and time again. At least one out of every 10 women in Canada is battered by her partner, and this translates to over 200,000 women per year in Ontario alone.

An even more frightening statistic is that 50% of all women murdered in Canada died as a result of domestic violence. When you hear statistics like this, it becomes increasingly obvious that we, as a society, have a responsibility to act in this matter. We cannot stand in silence and let it happen.

We have had a number of programs over the years to help change attitudes. If you remember, we had Break the Silence, we had Break the Cycle, we had Wife Assault Is a Crime. We had numerous different programs to try to make people understand how serious this problem was, and I think it is encouraging that people's attitudes are changing. People's awareness is much better than it ever has been.

We have successfully, I think, challenged the myth that wife assault occurs among certain groups of people. Well, that is not true. In fact, wife assault occurs in every ethnic, every racial, every economic, every social and every age group. But there is something else. Now that we are publicizing the fact that women need to break the silence, that

they must come forward and receive help, we must also ensure that the resources are there to help them when they do come forward.

Recently I initiated a women's outreach tour across southern Ontario, which I hope to continue in parts of the north later on this year. I went to Waterloo, Kitchener, London, Windsor, Ottawa, Kingston and Oshawa, and there are a number of things I was told by women who are working in this area.

The first is that there is a dire need for more second-stage housing. Once a woman is ready to leave or has to leave the crisis intervention shelter, many times there's nowhere for her to go where she can have a period of stability while she puts her life back together. There are only 15 second-stage housing projects in all of Ontario; to serve all of southeastern Ontario there are only two. So obviously this is a real need.

1410

The second thing I learned when I went and talked to women in many shelters, not only those who are administering but those residents of the shelter, is that there is a chronic need for more funding, for core funding, for funding for counselling. If there was anything I heard time and time again, it was that the resources are not there for counselling, and women are crying out for this. They cannot put their lives back together without this crucial counselling.

There's also one other thing I'd like to mention. When I asked about programs to help batterers, to try to help them deal with their anger so we could break this cycle and ensure that they would not be endangering the women and children again, I was consistently told that they didn't have them, that the government didn't encourage funding for them. In fact, in one centre in Windsor where they did have funding for male batterers to try to help them alleviate this anger so that they could be in a family situation again, I was told that the Ontario women's directorate had called a moratorium on men's treatment program dollars from Correctional Services. So I think it's very important that we not only work with the victims, who have to be our first priority, but that we also try to break this cycle by working with the men to see that it doesn't happen again.

This button says "No Man Has the Right." I hope that our next button will say that no person has the right to perpetuate violence at any time, anywhere, and I think we, as a Legislature, must try to get that message out.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): Each year at this time the minister responsible for women's issues hold a news conference, as was done today, outlining the number of wife assault brochures, newspaper ads, radio ads, television ads and posters that the government is funding to prevent wife assault and family violence.

Brochures alone will not help the women and children who have been and continue to be abused by spouses and fathers. It is the services and the improvements to our criminal justice system that will make the difference, and these are the areas where this government is not giving adequate support and priority.

The facts speak for themselves. A recent study found one in five Canadian men living with a woman admitted

using violence against her; 45% of all women murdered in Ontario in 1990 were killed by a current or estranged male partner. Some studies indicate that between 40% and 60% of assaultive men witnessed wife assault during their childhood. Serious behavioural problems are 17 times higher for boys and 10 times higher for girls who have witnessed wife assault than they are for other children.

We now have a problem: Because of increased public awareness and the prevention campaign, more women than ever before are using community services. However, the government is not keeping in step with this increased utilization of community services. Despite the huge increase in the number of women using crisis shelters, and I'll refer to the one in Waterloo region, the shelters have received little or no new money. In fact, they only received one half of 1% this past year. In Anselma House, in my own community, calls to the crisis prevention line were up 62% from 1990 to 1991 for the first half of that year, and the number of immigrant women coming to the shelter increased by 80%.

The minister has admitted that existing funding does not meet the need for services for women and children who have been assaulted and abused. Why not? Why advertise and why try to prevent and then not provide the appropriate services for these individuals who come forward? It is time that this government reordered its priorities.

These are tough economic times, but the bottom line is that this government has managed to find almost \$200 million to put private child care operators out of business. Victims of family violence would be far better off if they had access to services in their community, including child care subsidies. Availability of child care subsidies would enable women in abusive situations to find work and get out of abusive situations.

It's obvious that although this government talks about prevention, action is not a high priority, not action in this area nor action on behalf of children at risk. This year we've seen funding increased to children's aid societies by only one half of 1%. Children's aid societies are indicating to us that there is more sexual abuse than ever before, and yet there is inadequate funding to deal with these victims.

I also met today with the women's centres representatives. These centres provide important services to women ranging from counselling to crisis lines. They are an integral part of the network of services for women suffering from spousal abuse. As the minister knows, they are seeking \$50,000 in core funding for each centre to ensure their long-term stability and vitality and to help them play a vital role in helping to prevent abuse through education and support programs for women. I encourage the government to seriously consider providing this funding.

I encourage this government to take another look at its priorities, to take a look at real action for children and women in this province. Money spent on prevention campaigns is important, but the government now needs to become involved in action, and that's what's lacking in this announcement.

ORAL QUESTIONS

LAYOFFS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):

Again we note in Ontario that 555,000 people are without jobs, 547 people lose their jobs every working day and one plant closes every three days in Bob Rae's Ontario. But instead of talking to Ontario companies about how to get the economy going, the Premier is jetting off to Asia.

Last week my colleague the member for St Catharines raised the matter of recent newspaper reports that General Motors could close down a number of plants faster than people anticipated. Facilities in St Catharines and Oshawa are particularly vulnerable. That means that 20,000 Ontario jobs could be at risk. Premier, why are you going to Asia when you should be going to Detroit to talk to General Motors about how to save Ontario jobs?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):

I say to the honourable member that I've met and talked with the senior management at General Motors, and I will continue to do that. I don't think that a trip to the Far East precludes other contacts and other discussions taking place. The former Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, Mr Armstrong, has been meeting very intensively with officials in the car industry about their investment plans, and we're looking at the worldwide industry.

I say to the honourable member that one of the things I'm going to be doing both in Japan and Korea is meeting with the senior executives from their car industries, which have an important and growing stake in the world industry and in North America. I will also be very glad to talk with Mr Armstrong and others about the further steps that we can take with respect to the companies that are now doing business in the province that are headquartered in the United States or headquartered anywhere, but there is a great deal of work to be done.

To say that a trip to Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong is somehow to be juxtaposed against what's happening in jobs here, I think really reflects an attitude on the part of the honourable member that frankly surprises me. She, of all people, should know perfectly well—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —that the decisions that are made in corporate headquarters all over the world are of significance. We're open for business in this province and are determined to do business with the whole world.

1420

Mrs McLeod: Premier, let me say in turn, in all honesty, it's your attitude which continues to amaze me. It's the fact that, as we keep raising the issue of Ontarians who are out of work, of Ontario companies that keep closing, when you respond to the need to look at the economy, you keep talking about the fact that there's very little you can do about it; it's something to do with the world; it's something to do with federal policies and the best you can do in response is to go off to Asia and talk to overseas investors.

Premier, the point we're trying to make is that you are leaving the country when 20,000 Ontario jobs hang in the immediate balance. You're talking about overseas investment as a solution to the problem and you simply refuse to look at what can and must be done at home.

Premier, we're saying to you, it isn't good enough to tell us what Tim Armstrong is doing. We're saying it is time to turn your personal attention specifically to this question of what's going to happen to the General Motors plants in Ontario. I would ask you—when you talk about having spoken to General Motors—since we raised this issue in the House last Thursday, what have you personally done to encourage General Motors to keep its Ontario plants open?

Hon Mr Rae: I appreciate the comments the member is raising and I'm quite happy that she's raising issues last week and this week with respect to General Motors and a number of other companies.

When Chrysler made its announcement with respect to expanding its investment in Bramalea, when Ford made its announcement with respect to expanding its investment, what was the comment from the opposition then? The comment from the opposition was that it had nothing to do with the government; it had nothing to do with the steps we were taking; it had nothing to do with anything at all. It had to do with events that had taken place five and six years ago.

We are going to continue to work closely with all the companies in this province to ensure a continuing investment. We all know the difficulties facing the auto industry. To suggest, somehow, that to go and talk to the industry in Japan and Korea is contrary to the interests of the workers in this province is a truly bizarre intervention by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Final supplementary.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): We went through this procedure in December of last year before the last announcement of the closing of the foundry and part of the engine plant in St Catharines took place, and that's some 3,000 jobs, which has devastated my particular community and could devastate others.

You are apparently jetting off to Asia now at the very time—if we can determine from all the news reports—that General Motors is making its critical decisions on the closing of plants in North America. Time magazine in its November 9 edition apparently says it's not 74,000 jobs overall but some 120,000 jobs that will be lost at General Motors.

In view of the fact that our community of St Catharines has already been devastated by the notice of closures and that other communities that have General Motors operations, such as Windsor, Oshawa and London, are all concerned about this potential, will the Premier, upon reflection, upon all that he's seeing happening around General Motors, cancel his trip to Asia, make the trip to Detroit to put forward the case to General Motors officials in Detroit that we wish our operations to stay open and that we in Ontario are open for business?

Hon Mr Rae: I can't think of a more negative message to send to world markets than to cancel a trip to Asia that's been planned for several months. This is a hard reality. These things take some time here. The member has constantly put it this way. He did it when he was in opposition. There was only a brief five-year period of complete and total silence.

I don't recall him standing up and asking questions, objecting to Premier Peterson going to Italy. I don't recall him standing up and objecting to Premier Peterson going to Japan. I don't recall him objecting when he himself went overseas. I don't recall any of those objections being made, and I say to the honourable member—

Mr Bradley: When did I go overseas?

Hon Mr Rae: If the honourable member is saying he's never travelled overseas and he takes this as a sign that somehow it is an advantage for the province of Ontario that this has never been done, well then, I'm sorry. I say to the honourable member, if he has never travelled abroad on government business, then I apologize. But I don't recall him ever saying, in objection to Mr Peterson's travelling, that this was somehow a bad thing to do.

Mr Bradley: In the midst of an economic boom. This is in the midst of a recession. You are running away from the recession.

Hon Mr Rae: He says he did it in a boom. A recession is precisely the moment when we need to talk to those companies that are planning expansion, planning new investments and planning their futures in North America—

The Speaker: Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —that we establish a clear message that this province is open for business, that we want to talk to the world and that we're interested in encouraging investment from all over. That's the way it is.

ONTARIO HYDRO PRESIDENT

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My second question is also to the Premier.

Premier, three weeks ago I stood in this House and I asked you and the Minister of Energy very directly what your involvement was in the forced departure of Al Holt, the president of Ontario Hydro. You refused on that occasion to answer the question.

Premier, you and Marc Eliesen were friends. In a political move, you elevated him to the chair of Hydro and you brazenly tripled his salary. I find it difficult to believe that your appointee, Marc Eliesen, would not have discussed with you the orchestration of Mr Holt's firing. I ask, Premier, what was the extent of your involvement in Mr Holt's firing?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I'll refer that question to the Minister of Energy.

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): I don't think the answer the member across the way is looking for has changed very much in the last month. First of all, and I repeat as firmly as I can, Mr Holt was not fired

by Ontario Hydro or by the board of Ontario Hydro or by anyone else.

The member for Lanark-Renfrew himself got up in this House and admitted openly several weeks ago that the only motion that was ever passed by the Ontario Hydro board gave the chair authority to discuss retirement with the president. The president of Ontario Hydro retired.

Mrs McLeod: Although the Premier has chosen once again to defer the question, I say to the Premier and continue to say to him that his minister's testimony simply doesn't add up. I suggest to the Premier that he look very carefully at the record of what his minister has said. The minister has in the past denied any interference whatsoever. He claimed he had no knowledge of Mr Holt's so-called resignation until he saw a news release, yet the letter he wrote to the board of directors clearly directs them to fire Al Holt.

Reports in the weekend papers confirm what we have said all along: that the Minister of Energy was directly involved in firing Mr Holt, and his account flies in the face of the testimony that has been produced.

If the Premier was prepared to answer this question, I would ask him again very directly how he could possibly explain the contradiction between his minister's statements in the past and what he has clearly done. Minister, how do you explain that contradiction?

Hon Mr Charlton: There is absolutely no contradiction. The leader of the official opposition refers to reporting this weekend—fairly shoddy reporting, I might add; reports which go through part but not even all of what happened on the public record here in the House.

As I said in the answer to my first question, the member for Lanark-Renfrew, who obviously talked to one member of the Hydro board, got up in this House and made it very clear, after several days of insisting that the president of Hydro had been fired, that all that Ontario Hydro's board had passed was a motion giving the chair of Hydro the authority to talk to the president about retirement.

The only involvement that I have is the letter which I released publicly a month ago, and the rest of the events that occurred occurred at the Ontario Hydro board.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): He wasn't even in the country when you fired him. How can you fire him when he wasn't even there?

The Speaker: Order, the member for Willowdale.

Mrs McLeod: In light of the Premier's refusal to deal with this question, I ask him again to look at the facts. We have a minister who refuses to come clean on his own involvement in the Holt affair. We have a utility that is mired in financial management problems. People across this province are furious about hydro rates that have increased nearly 30% over two years. We have a newly appointed chair of Ontario Hydro making \$425,000 at a time when Hydro is laying off 2,000 people.

Interjections.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West, please come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition.

1430

Mrs McLeod: We have a newly appointed chair of Ontario Hydro who is making \$425,000 at a time when Hydro is laying off 2,000 employees. If this is not enough, we have a deposed president who as a result of this government's actions, I understand, received a \$1.2-million settlement from Hydro. I ask the minister, how much is Al Holt's firing going to cost?

Hon Mr Charlton: I don't know the amount of the exact settlement with Mr Holt. The reality is that the negotiation was done by Hydro at the direction of the Ontario Hydro board. I think it's very strange and I think the opposition should think about—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Charlton: I understand, for example, that they've tabled the 125 motion, that there will be a hearing on this matter in the resources committee in two weeks and I think that hearing will reveal all.

The Speaker: New question, the leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): If the Minister of Energy doesn't know these things, who does know? I don't understand. Out of the loop, are you?

The Speaker: To whom is your question directed?

Mr Harris: Out of the loop.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I have a question to the Premier. Premier, I have been given a box of bricks that were once part of a productive factory. I have here a brick for you, sir. I also have a box with a brick for each member of your cabinet, which I'm going to ask the legislative attendants today to deliver to each member of your cabinet.

I have been asked by the Coalition to Keep Ontario Working to send these bricks to you and your cabinet as a reminder of how your labour legislation will tear down this province, brick by brick, job by job.

Premier, by the time you leave for the Far East, your government may have rammed through the most regressive and job-killing legislation, easily the most regressive and most job-killing in all of North America; you may be able to find an example somewhere in the world but certainly not in North America.

Premier, it doesn't have to be that way and I would ask you today, before you leave for the Far East, will you take something on that trip with you that will give you something to sell? Will you repeal or kill or stop proceeding with Bill 40 today?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I want to thank the member for his brick. I don't know how many bricks short of a load he is now as a result of the load he's handing over to us, but only time will tell.

The symbolism notwithstanding, I'd just say to the honourable member that if he wants to consider legislation or a policy that is led by any review of what has happened in this province in the last five years, he should look to the free trade policies of his federal friends which were so ardently supported by members of the Conservative Party.

I want to say to the honourable member that we've gone through a very tough recession, a very difficult recession in this province, a major industrial restructuring, and if he thinks it is going to be possible to have a strong recovery without the participation of working people and the organizations they participate in, then he has a very different view of how the modern economy will work than we do on this side. I would just say to him that we have every intention of proceeding with the legislation.

Mr Harris: The letters that are attached to each of these bricks read, "Please keep this brick as a reminder of your public responsibility as a minister to build the Ontario economy, not destroy it through legislation which drives out employment."

Premier, it's not too late. Bill 40 has not passed third reading. Before embarking upon this trip to potential investors, to those who may wish to do business in Ontario, as you indicated, would you not admit that we cannot afford to lose any more jobs and any more investment in the province of Ontario? Would you not admit that a very powerful sales tool you could take with you would be news that you've withdrawn Bill 40?

Hon Mr Rae: I would say to the honourable member that it's our assessment of the international situation and with respect to investment in this province that our commitment to infrastructure, that our commitment to training—I talked to Ford and Chrysler about the reason they chose to make their most substantive investments in North America in Ontario. You want to talk about building? Go and look at the plants and factories that are going up there and the kind of expansion that's taking place there. They said it was the commitment of this province, the training—it was the commitment of this province to making sure that workers had a chance, and it was the commitment of this province to decent health and social services whose costs were being kept carefully under control. Those are the factors that lead to people deciding to invest in this province.

I haven't heard very much about building from the Conservative Party recently, I must confess. What I've heard from the Conservative Party is a constant denigration of the conditions of life in this province in a way that can only discourage anyone looking to invest in this province. Somebody has to go out there and tell them the good news, and that's my job.

Mr Harris: That statement certainly confirms to me that you've not bothered to read New Directions 1 or New Directions 2, which point the way to hope and prosperity and opportunity for this province. So if you haven't heard good news, you haven't been listening, because we've been giving you lots of ways to rebuild this province, the way it was for 42 years.

The workers of the auto parts manufacturing companies in Ontario, and of grocery distributors, the Canadian

Federation of Independent Business, the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers, the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating, the Canadian Tooling Manufacturers' Association—all of these businesses, all of these companies, all of the investors and all of the workers who work for them are pleading with you for their jobs; they're pleading with you for their livelihood.

These bricks represent more than just factories. They represent the men and women who want to work, and they represent the families of the men and women who want to work. Each brick: In their own words, Premier, they are all asking you to kill Bill 40 before it kills jobs.

I would ask you this, Premier: You said in response to an earlier question that you're going to the Far East to tell the investors and the companies and the governments there that Ontario is open for business, that we welcome their investment. I suggest to you, Premier, that you can't tell them these things. It's not words; it's actions, and every person you talk to will know exactly what is going on in this province—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the leader conclude his supplementary, please.

Mr Harris: —from legislation, from taxation and regulation to Bill 40. I would ask you, Premier, one more time: Will you take them a little glimmer of hope, a little bit of good news, some chance that they might consider Ontario, by telling them that you're withdrawing Bill 40?

Hon Mr Rae: You mention taxation. We've reduced corporate taxation. We reduced business taxes in this province in the last budget to the point now where our taxes are going to be lower than New York's, they're going to be lower than Michigan's, they're going to be lower than Ohio's. We've done that. We didn't get any credit. I haven't seen that in any Conservative Party brochure.

Because of the action we've taken on the health care system, where we now have the lowest rate of increase in the health care budget since the introduction of medicare, the toughest action that's been taken in this province in the history of the last 20 years—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: Again, we've had no particular congratulations from the Tories about this. Because we've taken that action, we're now able to say that we are saving employers who are looking to make a comparison between here and virtually any state of the United States thousands of dollars per employee in terms of health insurance costs. Those are facts. Those are the facts which have to be told to investors overseas and indeed anywhere, and those are the facts which I intend to take on my trip overseas.

Mr Harris: With all due great respect, Mr Premier, those are not facts; those are your opinions and they are not held by a single investor anywhere around the world and you know it. That is your opinion.

The Speaker: To whom is your second question directed?

1440

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Mr Speaker, my second question is to the Premier as well.

The Metropolitan Toronto Police Association's job action is now entering its fifth week. Ontario's 115 police associations are now debating whether to join that action province-wide. Premier, there does not appear to be an end in sight. I say to you sincerely that this is not the time for an individual's pride; it's not the time for the pride of an office, the pride of a Premier; it's not the time to be digging in your heels. The police are asking for a meeting, and you know that as of this Thursday that meeting will not be possible if you decide to continue with your plans for your trip to the Far East. Will you sit down with the police, with no conditions, before you leave on this trip?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I say to the honourable member that my offer to the Metro association still stands and that offer has been made publicly. I made it as well privately in a conversation with Mr Lymer that I had over a week ago. I indicated to him that provided there was a 48-hour suspension of the job action, as the members have been requested to do by their chief, as Chief McCormack has asked the police association, and as other chiefs have asked as well, of course I would be more than happy to meet under those circumstances.

The Solicitor General met last Friday with the Police Association of Ontario. There's another meeting scheduled for Wednesday. At the meeting that took place on Friday, it's interesting that the people came out of that meeting and it's my understanding they said that the person they wanted to meet with was the Solicitor General. I think that's the way it should be. I think it's entirely appropriate and I'm certainly hoping that we can solve this issue.

Mr Harris: Mr Speaker, through you to the Premier, we all hope that the situation will end. Certainly, no one is going to win if this stand-off continues. Ontario has a lot to lose. We have some of the finest police forces in the world and some of the finest men and women in the world on those forces.

Premier, since your offer to meet with conditions was not acceptable to the police association, since their request to you, you have found unacceptable, rather than have positions entrenched any further, would you agree to have a third-party mediator sit down with you and with the Metro association to see if we can collectively bring an end to this impasse?

Hon Mr Rae: First of all, let me say on this occasion as I have on many, many others, that I don't think there's anybody in this House who doesn't share the view that's been expressed about the quality of policing in this province, about the dedication of the men and women who serve this province in every city, in every town, and throughout the province with the OPP.

It's precisely because of that feeling I have, and the respect I have for the profession of policing and the very profound feeling I have for the police forces in the province, that I think it's important for us to resolve this issue. I

think it's important as well for the clear statements that have been made by several chiefs with respect to the importance of people getting back to work and of finding a way for us to establish a long-term dialogue.

I think it's very important for us to create a climate which is based on trust, one of mutual respect and a climate in which we can resolve not only any short-term issues there may be, but build a long-term relationship between the government and the police forces of the province that's based, as I say, on very firm and solid ground and on a sense of mutual respect. That's exactly what I want to do. That's what we intend to do.

With respect to the particular question which he's put forward, I want to say to him that I think the kind of meeting which the Solicitor General had with the Police Association of Ontario—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —and ideas are being exchanged effectively. There's no misunderstanding about what the various points of view are, and that's the direction which we want to continue to take in terms of this dialogue.

Mr Harris: The impasse is with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force and with you and your government. This really shouldn't be about who has the greatest will-power. It shouldn't be about who's going to blink first. We know you have the power, and so do they, to break the union if you wish, to break the spirit of the men and women trying to provide police services to this great city of Toronto. They know you have that power. You know you have it.

Mr Premier, you were elected to lead this province, you were elected to act as a leader, and it's time for you to show some leadership. I would ask you today, since you haven't been able to find the wherewithal to simply go and meet with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force and with its association, will you today agree to third-party mediation, to somebody acceptable to both sides? Obviously, the Solicitor General is not acceptable to both sides. Some days I wonder why he's acceptable to you. We know he's not acceptable to the police force.

Would you simply agree to third-party mediation to meet with both you and the police union, somebody acceptable to both sides, to resolve this impasse?

Hon Mr Rae: I want to assure the honourable member, because in his preamble he made such a point of saying that he knew how much power and so on was on one side or the other, that I have no particular interest—none at all, never have had; it's not my approach to life—in breaking anyone or in doing anything of that kind. That's not how I do things and that's not how this government does things. We want to establish an effective relationship.

If the member disagrees with the leadership which this government is showing or with my own leadership, that's fine; he certainly has that right and that's what a democracy is all about. But I want him to know and I want this House to know that the Solicitor General has the full confidence of this government. He's carrying out his responsibilities in a most difficult time, a difficult moment, and he will be continuing to meet with all the parties involved in

an effort to resolve this situation. That's exactly the mandate he's been given by me and by the cabinet.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is again to the Premier, and the Premier will find that this is a day in which we keep returning to issues we have raised over the past week.

Premier, on September 16, your office wrote to the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board requesting an expedited hearing on the York City Centre project. On October 8, the hearing dates were moved up. The Ontario Municipal Board has now confirmed that it changed the date as a result of the request to speed up the hearing.

Premier, the more we look into this, the more we find. We understand that the developer for this project approached your office to request assistance in achieving an expedited hearing because the project is located in your riding. Can you confirm that Drena Inc did in fact contact your office to ask for your intervention with the OMB and, in the face of all this evidence, will you now simply refer the matter of your intervention to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Let me state categorically that this development is a development which has had the approval and support of this government. This government and the city of York are partners in this development. Therefore, as a matter of public policy, it would be a little strange if this government would take the view that somehow we were going to oppose any decisions made by the OMB.

A number of representations were made to the municipal board with respect to the timing of the hearing, and any decisions made by the board with respect to the timing of the hearing or indeed the outcome of the hearing are entirely up to it. But there should be no mistaking the commitment of the government overall to the proposal which is before the municipal board.

1450

Mrs McLeod: The Premier's response seems to go directly against the understanding that the Ontario Municipal Board was in fact influenced by the request to expedite the hearing. It clearly goes against the previously rendered opinion of Judge Gregory Evans that the weight of a minister's intervention is significant and that a minister cannot have that kind of intervention. Surely the weight of the Premier's office is even greater.

In his response today, I understand the Premier to be somehow saying that it's okay to have his office contact the Ontario Municipal Board, telling it to put a project which is in the Premier's riding to the top of the list. The Premier has already said, and he says it again today, that he supports the project. He clearly wants it approved.

Mr Premier, I would suggest that in addition to the violation of the conflict-of-interest guidelines, there is another issue here which you seem determined to ignore. The Ontario Municipal Board was created to protect private citizens, to allow them to voice their objections to governmental action free of political intervention. I ask you, do you not agree that you have violated your own conflict-of-

interest guidelines, that you've violated the principle of non-interference with a quasi-judicial body, that you have made it impossible for the Ontario Municipal Board to carry out its work with independence? In light of all of that, I ask you again, why not refer this matter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner?

Hon Mr Rae: It is my very firm view, first of all, that there is no conflict. Second, it's my very strong view that the municipal board has the full right and power to determine any issues with respect to either the timing or with respect to the substance of the proposal.

HEALTH CARDS

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): In the absence of the Minister of Health, my question is for the Premier. Premier, when I asked your Health minister this question some two weeks ago, she simply shrugged it off and blamed the Liberals.

Earlier this year, the Provincial Auditor informed your government that the number of health cards issued outnumbered the number of people actually living in Ontario and that health care for these ineligible people could be costing Ontario taxpayers \$700 million annually. This figure, Premier, is based upon the half a million extra cards in the system and does not include the 1.2 million cards whose numbers have been cancelled in the government's computer, yet these cards remain in circulation and can be used by anyone. Totalling the two numbers, the amount of taxpayers' dollars being drained potentially from the system is close to \$2.6 billion annually.

On October 22, in order to bring some accountability into the system, I suggested that doctors be required to ask for two valid pieces of identification and that patients be required to sign for the health services they received. Premier, why are you allowing billions of dollars to be wasted by not implementing these measures?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think in fairness to the Minister of Health, who really has been taking several measures in this regard, I should simply take the question as notice—not brushing it off at all, but because I take it seriously, and I know she would want to be able to have the opportunity to answer the question.

Mr Jim Wilson: It's sad that the Premier now shrugs off the question, after the minister doing the same some two weeks ago. It's a very, very serious question for the taxpayers.

Premier, I want to share with you a story told to me by a doctor in Toronto who is frustrated by the way in which health care resources are being bled from the system by the use of fraudulent health cards. The doctor told me that when she suspected a fraudulent card, she contacted OHIP and was told by a government official, "Thanks for calling, but we can't help you." In other words, Premier, there is no way for a doctor to verify fraudulent use of a health card.

Premier, you've been quick to cut 5,000 hospital beds, you've been quick to deny seniors drugs they desperately need and you've been quick to make cuts that have expanded waiting lists. Given your haste to cut health care

services, how do you explain your paralysis when it comes to recovering billions of dollars that are being stolen from Ontario's taxpayers?

Hon Mr Rae: First of all, I am not brushing the member's question off. I take the member's question far too seriously and, if I may say so, I take the issue far too seriously to ever want to brush it off. If he has that impression and if he would like me to read briefing notes for him, I can do that, but it seems to me he's better off waiting for an answer from the Minister of Health, who can give him a very direct answer.

She does have answers with respect to steps that have been taken with respect to registration approvals, registration analysis, a policy unit and approval of the database in a real effort to deal with a problem which we all recognize as being one which needs to be dealt with. We take the member's question very seriously, and she'll be responding to it.

OFFTRACK BETTING

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): Before I ask my question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, let me just say that if anyone in Ontario wants a reason to wear eye protection, they could have looked at my eye last week and this eye this week and they'll wear eye protection when they're playing any type of sport.

My question is for the minister. Minister, in our last budget there was an initiative announced concerning off-track betting and a teletheatre concept. I know this has the support of the horsemen I've talked to in my riding of Brantford. I have an individual who's very interested in pursuing this, Mr Bob Markovich, a private businessman who wants to invest in fixing up his establishment to provide this service for the people of Brantford.

However, he is a little bit concerned or confused about what the process is to achieve an application for obtaining this licence. Does he have to go to the Ontario Jockey Club, the Ontario Racing Commission or your ministry? Perhaps you could clarify what the process is for my constituent Mr Bob Markovich.

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): First of all, let me say that the Ontario Racing Commission is right now in the process of expanding the intertrack wagering network in western Ontario in order to fully utilize the existing capacity of race-tracks.

When this intertrack expansion is completed, the commission will be consulting with all segments of the racing and breeding industry. That will begin the orderly implementation of teletheatres that we hope to see happening soon.

Mr Ward: The next question I have on behalf of my constituent Mr Bob Markovich is, when will this process be up and running? I know he has sent some letters. Do we know whether or not they are on file, for his benefit? when can we anticipate this exciting initiative being under way?

Hon Ms Churley: We hope this exciting initiative will be under way very soon.

What I can confirm today is that Mr Markovich has indeed been in contact with the Ontario Racing Commis-

sion, and he has been advised that his letter is on file. He will be contacted when the Brantford area is considered for teletheatres. We expect that to be happening in the very near future.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the Premier. Premier, if there was one word used to describe your government, I think people would use the word "polarization." You've polarized the business community and labour. You've polarized, in the community, teachers and trustees, school boards and ministries, municipalities and your Ministry of Housing. It's just rampant in the province of Ontario.

And now, because of your refusal to a simple request to meet with the police, you've polarized the police and your government. I, unlike the leader of the third party, think the Solicitor General has done just about everything he can do. He's admitted he doesn't have a green light from the corner office. He's admitted he can't resolve the problem, and clearly this falls to you.

If you refuse to meet with them, if you want to fob it off to him, you can. The question is to you: Why will you, sir, not simply swallow your ego and your pride and meet with the police and discuss the issues they feel are of such serious concern? If you truly care about the safety of the public, which you've said you do, you'd think you'd be demanding a meeting with these people. Premier, I want to know why you continue to refuse to meet with the police on this issue.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I refer that question to the Solicitor General.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): We did in fact have meaningful consultations with all major police stakeholders during the development of this regulation. Since the job action has taken place, I have met with the Police Association of Ontario and the OPPA, the Ontario Provincial Police Association. We have another meeting scheduled Wednesday.

The most recent discussions we've had were very fruitful, very helpful, and I hope that through consultation rather than confrontation this matter can come to a close in the near future.

1500

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Supplementary.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): To the Premier?

Mr Mahoney: Well, I would like it to be to the Premier, but obviously it has to go to the Solicitor General.

I heard you quoted on a radio program saying that you don't have the green light, that you can't resolve the problem. I appreciate the fact that it must be extremely frustrating, Solicitor General, for you to convene a meeting, when you know you have no possible way of resolving it. You'd almost want to turn in the limo. You'd almost wonder why you've got this big office and all of this staff and this huge responsibility, when this guy is getting on a plane and going off to the Orient and leaving you to resolve the problem.

What do you say, Solicitor General, when the police associations say to you: "Why won't Bob Rae meet us? Why is it that this government continues to show a dislike and a mistrust for the police associations, the men and women in this province?" What's your answer to them when they say, "Why won't your boss talk to us?"

Hon Mr Pilkey: First of all, the Police Association of Ontario is not saying that at all. The member opposite may be saying it, but that is not the position of those he alleges that kind of circumstance to. They are quite welcome to meet with the Premier of this province, and the Premier, I am sure, is quite willing to meet with them. They have been dealing with me, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General, where the regulation emanated from, and from where this matter will finally be closed.

The only difficulty with any meeting with the Premier is that with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association, through Mr Lymer. I have no idea why he wouldn't make a small move of a 48-hour, or even less, stop in the job action to accept the very generous offer by the Premier. The Premier even extended it by way of phoning personally to Mr Lymer at his own personal residence.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, you would be aware that for the last 10 days there has been a strike of Ontario Public Service Employees Union workers at Rotherglen Centre, which is a phase 1, closed-custody facility in Ajax for violent young offenders. You'd be aware that many of the residents are violent and have been moved, with your permission, to other facilities, including open-custody detention homes in communities in and around Toronto.

Aside from the obvious concerns of public safety and security, your Bill 40, section 73, would designate this program as an essential service. So my question is, why have you shipped some 12 to 14 young offenders, many of whom are violent, some to less secure, less safe, open-custody detention homes, when, again, your own legislation, Bill 40 says—where this is unnecessary to enable an employer to prevent danger to life, health or safety?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): Under the current legislation, obviously the provision for essential service is not there in the same way, so if that's the member's question, he is clearly talking about a situation that is an ongoing labour dispute between an employer, not the government, and its employees.

It is our responsibility as a ministry to ensure that the young people who are in the care of this ministry are looked after in an appropriate way when this kind of situation does occur. The responsibility we have to ensure that the kind of custody children are in is according to the orders they've received is one that we're intent to uphold and do uphold.

The children who remain at the centre are there with management staff, and they are limited to those who require that particular kind of care. The transfers that have occurred have been in line with the program planning for those youngsters. So at this point in time, it is our position

that our charges have been cared for appropriately and that the employer and the employees must resolve this issue.

Mr Jackson: Minister, that doesn't appear to be actually the case. The fact is that many of these children, as I've said, have been transferred to open-custody facilities in communities in and around Toronto. We have been advised that violent young offenders have been moved to Cassatta in Rexdale, an open detention centre; to Oakwood and Millbrook near Peterborough, again an open detention centre; and one girl was sent to McKinnon House in Oshawa, again an open detention centre.

Last night that young lady threatened the life of another girl in that institution and threatened another young girl with bodily harm. The police were called at 1 am this morning and that young lady, that violent young offender, who you suggest is appropriately placed in an open-custody residential setting, has now been transferred to the York Detention Centre some time earlier today.

Minister, why do you insist that there is no potential risk involved? Why is it that your actions are unnecessary to transfer these young offenders and to put various communities at potential risk, when clearly there is now evidence that several may put those communities at risk? Why are you taking that course of action, based on the evidence I've shared with you today?

Hon Mrs Boyd: I was not aware of the incident that occurred last night and I will certainly look into the allegations the honourable member has made. I agree with him that in those circumstances it certainly does create some concern for members of communities and I can tell him that I will certainly look into that.

The responsibility of the director under the act is to ensure that alternate care is provided appropriately. It has certainly been our information that with the kind of work that has been going on with Brookside, with York Detention Centre, appropriate placements were made. I will certainly review the situation, and if in fact there are problems with that, we will ensure that we are doing everything we can to correct the matter.

GRAND RIVER

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Minister, you have received correspondence from the Grand River Conservation Authority and from a number of MPPs in the various political parties represented in this House. We're asking support for the GRCA's efforts to secure funding to complete the development of a management plan for the Grand River as a Canadian heritage river. The Ministry of Culture and Communications has responded and your ministry has certainly expressed some ideas. Minister, could you indicate to the House the steps taken to date by your ministry that will promote this initiative?

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): I appreciate the member's interest in this project. The Grand River was first nominated to be a Canadian heritage river in 1990. Since his representations, and prior to those, the Ministry of Natural Resources staff has had discussions with staff of the Ministry of Culture and Communications, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the

Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to determine what approaches could be taken by all the ministries and involving them in the development of a management plan which could be completed by the end of 1993 for consideration for designation in 1994.

Mr Farnan: The correspondence I have received from your ministry, while it provides me with some optimism, also provides me with some concerns. Such phrases as "will endeavour to arrange adequate funding and technical resources" and, again, "sources of funding will be explored," are indeed positive, may be indeed laudable. However, there is no sense of security for me in them. They do not provide me with total confidence that the funds will be forthcoming. They could almost be taken for bureaucratese.

Will you commit a guarantee from your ministry that you will not allow this unique opportunity to pass us by? Will you assure the GRCA and the people of Ontario that the necessary resources will be provided to complete the required management plan on schedule? We need a commitment, Minister.

Hon Mr Wildman: I appreciate very much the member's commitment and the commitment of the Grand River Conservation Authority to this project. I want to assure him that we are making every representation with all the ministries I referred to to ensure that we can find funds and deploy funds so the management plan can be completed by the end of 1993. I assure the member that we are exploring as diligently as possible all sources of revenue for this project.

1510

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question is for the Minister of Revenue. Of the several policies that the Rae government is pursuing, there is one that is of particular interest to the rank and file citizenry of my part of rural eastern Ontario, and I suspect it is going to be of growing interest to most members of this House. This is Bob Rae's new used-car policy.

Considering that the NDP has always prided itself on a commitment to working men and women, I want to put to the minister the following case that was put to me by a hardworking young fellow in my office the other day. This young man bought a 10-year-old truck and paid \$50 for that vehicle, a value which was sustained by later evaluations. He paid \$50 for the truck. When he went a few days later to get the ownership transferred, he was told that he would have to put up six times the purchase price in provincial sales tax payable and that in fact he could submit the evaluations, and two to three months down the road he would get his \$300 provincial sales tax remitted.

The minister will know this policy is creating havoc for students and the working poor, certainly throughout my part of the province. I specifically ask the minister, does she believe that her policy and the policy of her government with respect to this new used-car policy is fair particularly to the working poor and students, who, on the basis of the anecdotal evidence which I'm seeing in my office,

are the men and women who are paying disproportionately the price of this new policy?

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue): I thank my colleague opposite for the question. I am aware, as I believe most of my colleagues in this Legislature are, of the used vehicle information program, the package that went out, and some of the responses that we are getting from constituents. The case that you have recited is accurate. I don't know what the waiting time is before someone gets responded to on an appeal, but that is the process that people have to go through.

When the Treasurer went through this legislation, there were a few things we wanted to do in filling in the gaps. The first thing we wanted to do was give a transfer package to consumers to help them be able to identify what kind of vehicle they were purchasing. That package will come out and will be available to the public in February. They will know if there are liens against a vehicle, if a vehicle is really the vehicle they say it is, if there are any problems with the vehicle and what it was used for in the past.

I should also let you know that previous to this legislation there were over 20,000 curbsiders in the province of Ontario who were illegally collecting dollars for themselves. We expect that this initiative will bring \$87 million back to the taxpayers of Ontario so that we can continue to support our programs.

Mr Conway: This young man who came to see me is left incredulous that this could happen in Bob Rae's Ontario. Let me repeat what he said. He understands how people who are in government limousines or business people who've got tax write-offs wouldn't understand, but the working poor in Renfrew county, believe me, are going to pay disproportionately the price of carrying this policy. The local member, the local minister, the local union executive or the local business person is not going to feel this nearly to the same extent as those people who came to see me in the last few days. So my question to the minister remains, what do you have to say to the working poor and to students who say that unless there is this kind of after-market available to them, they will not and they cannot get access to transportation that will take them to school or take them to work?

We all agree that there are curbsiders and they have got to be dealt with.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the member conclude his question, please.

Mr Conway: My question remains, how can you tell these people who are being asked to pay six times the retail value in provincial taxes, taxes which will be remitted after two or three months, that this is a fair policy, when the bulk of that burden is going to be carried by ordinary people, most of whom are the working poor or young people trying to cooper together enough money and put together some kind of vehicle that will safely get them to school or work at low cost?

Hon Ms Wark-Martyn: I do understand a lot of the information that is coming across. I do respond to constituents myself, personally, and I still do buy used vehicles, so

I assume in the near future I'll be at the front of the line at MTO also, and have to deal with it.

These are very real concerns that people have, but we, as a government, have to protect the taxpayers of Ontario. When you think of 20,000 curbsiders and the money that they were making on the side illegally, we as a government have to show some leadership in getting rid of the curbsiders, and this was one of the ways that we in the government decided to do this.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, your education reform document, *Everybody's Schools: A Common Curriculum*, which you spoke about last week, does not specify a core curriculum with specific goals and objectives for each grade level.

Parents want to know what is being taught and how their children are doing with those skills, and you should have started some kind of process to develop this core curriculum.

Mr Minister, the first objection parents have on this document is that there's no core curriculum. You may be coming up with this, but the second problem is that you haven't asked the public for their opinion, and by the public I mean parents and ordinary, taxpaying citizens.

In your consultation process around what I think you called your formative years consultation process, there were only 30 parents and/or ratepayers who responded out of 900 responses.

My question is, Mr Minister, when will you be having a consultation process so that parents can respond on the core curriculum documents that you have promised to bring forward?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): First of all, let me say to the member opposite, as I did to the Liberal critic last week, I believe, when this same question was asked, that the document she's referring to is a very early draft and that substantive changes have taken place to that document since that time, keeping very much in mind that the kind of direction she was suggesting, and that I've been suggesting, needs to be there, which is that we need a common core curriculum that is much more specific.

With respect to the question that was asked around the public discussion, I would say two things. I am not sure that what we need is a continuing public discussion on the kinds of directions that we need to be moving in. I think that we're clear about those directions and what we need to do.

Having said that, I think we can proceed, and we will proceed, with setting out, in the common core curriculum and in the overall documents that we will be issuing, I hope soon, a direction that we want to pursue.

But that having been said, there will certainly be lots of discussion that will need to continue to happen, both provincially and at the local school level, around how these things are properly implemented and how these changes need to come about, and that, I can say to the member opposite, will happen as part of the process.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired. On a point of privilege, the member for Mississauga West.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I'd like to refer you to page 26 of the standing orders, subsection 34(a). If you'll bear with me, it says:

"The Speaker's rulings relating to oral questions are not debatable or subject to appeal. However, a member who is not satisfied with the response to an oral question, or who has been told that his or her question is not urgent or of public importance, may give notice orally at the end of the oral question period that he or she intends to raise the subject matter of the question on the adjournment of the House and must give written notice to the Speaker not later than 4 pm the same day, and file reasons for dissatisfaction with the Clerk before 5 o'clock."

You may recall, Speaker, that last Wednesday I asked a question to the Premier, and stated at the end of question period, according to this rule, that I was dissatisfied with the answer and subsequently filed the appropriate documentation.

Section (b) says, "Where notice has been given and reasons filed, as provided in clause (a), at 6 pm on any Tuesday or Thursday"—this was Wednesday, so it was the following day—"the Speaker may, notwithstanding standing order 9, deem that a motion to adjourn the House has been made, whereupon the matter in question may be debated for not more than 10 minutes, five minutes to be allowed to the member raising the matter"—myself—"and five minutes to the minister or to his or her parliamentary assistant to reply if he or she so wishes. Where there are several such matters," etc "the Speaker shall deem the motion to adjourn to be carried." That's not the point.

1520

The point that I raise, sir, is that there is a tradition in this House, and you have on a number of occasions made a ruling that was not necessarily based on the exact wording in this document. In fact, last week we had a great deal of discussion and people were upset. I think one member actually threw the standing orders to the ground, saying that if you were not going to rule based on what is here but rather based on tradition or what normally takes place, then these standing orders are not of much use.

The other side of the coin, and my reason for raising this as a point of privilege, is that neither the Premier nor his parliamentary assistant, who I believe is the member for Fort York, showed to respond to what we commonly refer to as a late show, which was my statement of dissatisfaction with the answer. No one else is allowed to respond other than the minister, the Premier in this case, or the parliamentary assistant. No one else is allowed to, so the fact that the rest of the government members left didn't particularly upset me. They left one member, I believe it was the member for York East, in this place to listen and to be part of the debate, but he of course was not empowered to do so, so therefore he could not respond.

So I'm here raising under the standing orders properly what is a legitimate point of concern, of dissatisfaction. I filed the papers properly, did everything that I am supposed to do as a member of the opposition. It seems to me that when the Premier and/or his parliamentary assistant refuses to show, it shows disdain, not only for me as a member but, more importantly, for members of the opposition.

While you may wish to rule on the words that say that a minister or parliamentary assistant may reply "if he or she so wishes," then clearly I accept the fact that in a literal translation of this section of our standing orders they didn't wish to reply, but the tradition in this House—and that is what you have ruled points of privilege and points of order on—is that someone responds to members of the opposition. I frankly feel it's not only a personal insult but clearly an insult to the opposition, many of whom stayed, by the way, on that particular Thursday to listen to the debate, anxious to hear the Premier or the parliamentary assistant respond to my concerns. They refused to do so, and I'd like your ruling.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member's made his point. To the member for Mississauga West, indeed, first of all, he has in fact answered his own question. The rule is permissive. It allows the minister or the parliamentary assistant to respond if he or she wishes. Obviously there's nothing in that standing order that compels the attendance of a minister or parliamentary assistant.

I understand full well and have great sympathy with the member's contention that because it is part of the standing orders, because it's part of our tradition, that it is best if both the member who raised the matter originally and the minister to whom it's directed, or parliamentary assistant, are in attendance. The member will know that over time there have been numerous occasions on which ministers have, for whatever reason, decided not to be in the chamber.

All I can say to the member is, I understand fully and appreciate fully his concern about the tradition of that particular opportunity, and I can only encourage ministers to, if at all possible, appear in the chamber when a member has filed dissatisfaction.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): A point of order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, I've read your ruling today with respect to the specific request to put in writing your decision of last Wednesday, I believe, with respect to moving the House from committee of the whole back into House and then back again into committee of the whole.

I've read this brief recount of the day and what took place. I haven't seen in this particular—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: It's a recount of what happened that specific day.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please.

This is not a debatable matter. I have dealt with the issue in fact twice now. Motions?

Mr Stockwell: But the point of order, Mr Speaker, was not that.

The Speaker: You have a different point of order?

Mr Stockwell: No. Well, not really. The point of order was—

The Speaker: Then I ask—

Mr Stockwell: It is different.

The Speaker: No, the member must take his seat. The matter has been dealt with. I am not entertaining a point of order to deal with the matter which I have already dealt with.

Mr Stockwell: But I do have a different point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: A different point of order?

Mr Stockwell: Yes.

The Speaker: All right, I will hear the honourable member.

Mr Stockwell: I requested, when I asked that you put this particular decision in writing, that you cite some precedents when you were bringing this forward. I've read your ruling and there are no precedents involved. It was a recounting of what took place.

The Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr Stockwell: My point of order is that it wasn't done, and I guess I'm inquiring as to why that didn't take place.

The Speaker: I have dealt with the matter that was brought before me. There is nothing more to debate on. We are not debating the ruling. The order stands.

Petitions. The member for Eglinton.

Mr Stockwell: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: The member for Eglinton has the floor.

PETITIONS

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Metropolitan Toronto has passed an ill-conceived market value assessment plan; and

Whereas it is arbitrary and demonstrably unfair to use market value as a basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relationship to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas the implementation of such a measure would work undue hardship on the residents of north Toronto, on our long-term home owners, our senior citizens and our tenants; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and will be devastated by further increases,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of

Toronto, and to consider another method of property tax reform for Metro Toronto."

This has been signed by concerned citizens, and I have affixed my signature since I wholeheartedly agree with it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I have a petition signed by 13 people regarding the amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act proposed wide-open Sunday shopping and the elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday. It's addressed to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, hereby register opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act. We believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families. The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act was last updated in 1975; and

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act should reflect the needs of today's workplace and today's workforce,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"To pass Bill 40, an Act to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, without further delay."

This is signed by many residents of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I hope I can get this in, considering the arbitrary whims of the Speaker and how he rules, but I'll do my best.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are you asking for a point of order?

Mr Stockwell: No, sir, I'm asking to read a petition.

The Deputy Speaker: Petition? The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: That was just an aside, a preamble to my petition.

I've been requested from the Open Door Evangelical Church, which is in my riding, to submit this petition:

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act. We believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families. The amendment in-

cluded in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I will sign this and submit it.

1530

NATIVE EDUCATION

Mr David Winninger (London South): I have a petition of support for Nokee Kwe adult education centre in London:

"We the students of Nokee Kwe are concerned about our present funding situation, as this lack of funding jeopardizes our future and the future of our children. Not all of our students are able to continue with the program without some sort of guaranteed income to provide for our families' basic needs. Nokee Kwe gives each aboriginal student the opportunity to learn and flourish in a safe and supportive environment."

This petition has 239 signatures, and I've affixed my signature thereto.

I realize that the petition does not comply with the format required by the standing orders of this House. However, the signatories to this petition have asked that I submit it to the House based on the statement of political relationships signed between our government and the first nations. They submit that based on a government-to-government relationship, this petition be acceptable to this House.

LAYOFFS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): This petition is from several residents of the province of Ontario. It's to members of provincial parliament.

"Whereas the general level of unemployment in Ontario is extremely high and has caused severe hardship for individuals and families; and

"Whereas hundreds of firms in Ontario have filed for bankruptcy and have had their employees join the ranks of those on the unemployment roles; and

Whereas youth unemployment is higher in Ontario than in all other provinces; and

Whereas General Motors may announce several plant closings with resulting job losses this month and the presence of the Premier in the province is necessary to persuade General Motors to keep all of its Ontario operations open,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to cancel his impending trip to Asia and to remain in North America to present the Ontario GM workers' case to General Motors officials and to respond to important and urgent questions about the Ontario economy in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

I agree with this petition and I affix my name to it.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario that reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession; and

"Whereas the placement of bilingual highway signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens; and

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding; and

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the direct discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act,

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

CAMPING FEES

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I have a petition here with 139 signatures, concerning a decision to charge senior and disabled persons for weekday camping in provincial parks in Ontario.

"Whereas seniors worked for extremely low wages in their earlier years; and

"Whereas many are war veterans who defended our country under very difficult circumstances; and

"Whereas many seniors retired on extremely low incomes; and

"Whereas many retired on fixed incomes,

"We, the undersigned residents of the province of Ontario, protest most vigorously the decision to charge seniors and disabled persons for weekday camping in provincial parks in Ontario."

I agree with this and I have attached my signature. It's going to be out of order.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

This has been signed by workers from Windsor, Harrow, Toronto, Cambridge and across the province. I have signed my name to this petition.

INVESTMENT FUND

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition of 787 signatures. It's addressed to the Legislature of Ontario re the proposed Ontario investment fund.

"We, the undersigned, are members of CUPE and employees of Metropolitan Toronto and we are totally opposed to your plan to use our hard-earned pension funds for government projects. Our pension fund, OMERS, is created with money which comes directly from our pockets as payroll deductions and indirectly from us in the form of a negotiated benefit matching payments from our employer.

"We do not see any reason for you to create an Ontario investment fund when most pension funds are already doing what you proposed with a great deal more expertise and a solid record of success. Your motives are suspect, particularly when we consider the size of the provincial budget deficit. OMERS consists of money which we are setting aside for our retirement so that we can expect a decent standard of living in our old age without having to be dependent on the government.

"In these difficult times, even the viability of the Canada pension plan is being questioned. We prefer our funds to remain in the hands of qualified people who are free of political obligations, and we want our money to be invested safely and without any reference to special interest groups or political patronage.

"We support the position taken by the OMERS coalition, which is that involvement in any such investments be on a purely voluntary basis."

I have signed this.

PINE GROVE FOREST

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): I have a petition for the preservation of the Pine Grove Forest.

"Whereas the Pine Grove Forest is a significant wetland forest complex, a portion of which is designated an area of natural and scientific interest on the east bank of the Rouge Valley, a part of the Petticoat Creek watershed in Pickering; and

"Whereas the Pine Grove Forest is an essential gateway to the Rouge-Duffin corridor, thereby providing a crucial link to the Altona Forest, Petticoat Creek and Duffin Creek as well as Lake Ontario waterfront and north to the Oak Ridges moraine; and

"Whereas the Rouge Park advisory committee has recommended to the province of Ontario to include all of the Pine Grove Forest within the future Rouge Park,

"We, the undersigned, urge the Premier of Ontario and the ministers of Natural Resources, of the Environment and Municipal Affairs to protect the Pine Grove Forest by ensuring that the province includes this significant area in a national-provincial Rouge Park. We strongly oppose any urbanization of this natural area."

I've signed my name, and we have names from Scarborough, from Pine Grove and from other parts of Pickering.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have signed that petition myself.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition of 72 names from my riding of Dufferin-Peel, specifically Orangeville and Grand Valley. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It's with respect to the amendment to the Retail Business Holidays Act proposing wide-open Sunday shopping and the elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday.

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"We believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and will cause increased hardships on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I have affixed my signature to this document.

1540

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have a petition to the members of provincial government handed to me by the minister Gilles Pouliot. It's an amendment to the Retail Business Holidays Act proposing wide-open Sunday shopping and elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday.

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"We believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and cause increased hardships on many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I affix my name to this petition also.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have the pleasure of introducing a petition on behalf of the members of St Andrew's Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stavebank Road North in Mississauga—actually in the town of Port Credit.

The petition is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads as follows:

"Re the amendment to the Retail Business Holidays Act, proposed wide-open Sunday shopping and elimination of Sunday as legal holiday:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday business.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families.

"The proposed amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act of Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I'm happy to sign my name and lend support to this petition.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr Laughren moved government notice of motion number 20:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing November 1, 1992, and ending December 31, 1992, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The members will know what this motion is for. It's to allow the government to pay its commitments, its bills, up until the end of December 1992.

The members will also know that last Thursday we had scheduled this debate so that the motion could be passed through before the end of October. Subsequent events in this chamber did not allow that to happen, which caused us some concern because of some bills the government will not have been able to have paid on time.

I understand that while it's not going to affect the cheques for welfare recipients or cheques of the civil servants of the province, nevertheless, there were some contractual arrangements that were not able to be honoured by this government. I don't like to see that happen. I think government has an obligation to pay its bills on time. I think, however, that people do understand that it was the decision of the opposition parties not to allow the supply motion to pass before the end of October.

Having said that, I hope that since this is November 2, members opposite will understand that if the delay continues, every day the delay continues, the problem gets worse and fewer of our bills are paid on time. I trust the members of the opposition will appreciate that. It's not causing

government itself any problem. It's the people expecting cheques and expecting contracts to be honoured who will be upset if the motion of supply is not passed.

Having said that, the members of the opposition have a democratic right to debate this item and I'm sure will carry out those responsibilities in a most responsible way. It is not my intention to make a long speech because, given the interest that members opposite have shown on this supply motion, I think they would not want me to cut into any time they might otherwise have to debate this motion.

I would say to members opposite that the times we are going through are unusually difficult. They are not restricted to Ontario. There are difficult times in other jurisdictions that have economies very similar to the economy of Ontario. There are other jurisdictions with our kinds of problems as well, and that's true whether you look at other provinces or whether you look at competing jurisdictions elsewhere in the world, or in North America, for that matter.

I'm sure that members opposite have their view as to what it is that is causing our problems in Ontario. I would simply say that in the province, we have put in place a number of programs that we believe are committed to addressing the cyclical problems of this recession, but even more importantly than that to addressing the long-term structural problems.

Let no one mistake: The recession we're going through is not a typical cyclical one. There are profound structural changes taking place, and we cannot respond to this recession the way governments of the past have responded to previous recessions. It is much different from that: It truly is structural in nature. It is our intention not to respond to every cry for assistance that we hear out there in the province, whether it's from opposition members or whether it's from a particular sector. We simply can't do that if we're going to have any kind of plan that puts Ontario well placed to recover from this structural recession. We intend to do that. It's not going to be easy, but we believe we have an obligation to do so.

We know that the referendum caused a certain amount of instability and uncertainty, but that is behind us now. We must get on with making sure that the infrastructure of this province and this country is rebuilt not simply for the fact that the infrastructure needs to be rebuilt, but because of the jobs that will create and the fact that it will continue to make this province a good place to live, to work and to invest. We intend to continue to do that.

I wish I could be here for the entire debate but since I thought the debate was going to be held last Thursday, I made other arrangements for this afternoon and I won't be able to listen to the scintillating debate that will flow from this motion. I wish I could be, because I do enjoy the supply motion debates. But having said that, I do look forward to reading the comments that the members opposite make and, hopefully, that members on this side will make as well. I look forward to reading that.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are there any questions or comments?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I was interested to listen to the Treasurer as he indicated that he always likes to see the contracts of this government paid on time. I would like the Treasurer now to tell us why it is that in February and March of last year, when contractors were looking for payments from the Ontario government, that they did not receive payments on contracts which they had already completed and which they were entitled to receive payment for. In fact, it comes to my attention that the government didn't make payments on contracts which were completed well before the end of the last fiscal year till this current fiscal year.

It looked very much like the Treasurer and his people were manipulating the payments they had to make so that they could make their bottom line look just a little bit better. These people are the masters at doing funny things to people in the public sector when they wanted to retire their fiscal year-end at a number well below what it would have been had they met all of their contractual obligations on time.

1550

I don't wish to unfairly go on at length, but it would be interesting if the Treasurer were spot on in his explanations as to exactly what is occurring in this province. He should be telling us why it is that he hasn't shown us the second-quarter final reports yet. Usually, that material is available to this House in the third week of October, and here he is, asking us to provide him with interim supply so he can borrow more money, when he won't tell us the whole story.

What in the world is happening? They won't even share information. But then, that's the way with this New Democratic Party government. They're covering up on all kinds of investigations at Grandview by failing to release the information. They won't give us the fiscal data. They just won't come clean with the people.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I was going to comment and pick up with respect to the second-quarter numbers. I'm very concerned with respect to the second-quarter numbers and whether or not this government is hitting its projections. I think categorically that they're not. I think that, because the revenue projects may well have been overstated; their expenditures I know are in trouble; they have a couple of major expenditures in this budget with respect to the sale of property for \$1.2 billion, and they have another \$1.2 billion in there with respect to keeping the deficit down.

I think it would have been an interesting debate had this Legislature been able to review the second-quarter numbers. What really takes away from this debate is the fact that this government can't bring forward those numbers, late by a week or so, maybe up to two weeks, and we end up in an interim debate discussion today without any information. The Treasurer wants to go borrow some more money, but we as legislators, as stewards of the taxpayers, cannot be given the information so this could be a really worthwhile endeavour.

I have my thoughts on why this information is not forthcoming: that the numbers are so horrendous, the

expenditures are so much over, the revenues are so much lower that they have to put a very specific spin on this and, hopefully, not have a debate in this House during interim supply.

Maybe that's not right. Maybe the proof is in the pudding, when we get the second-quarter numbers and see just exactly how deep in the red this province is, how far off the mark this Treasurer was when he made his recommendations in the budget to this House.

It really irks me to think we can have a debate on interim supply when we can't even see the second-quarter numbers, which, in my opinion, should have been forthcoming last month and really throws into question whether or not this Treasurer knows what he's doing.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments?

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): It would be easier to vote for supply this afternoon if we knew indeed that the money would be going to the renal dialysis unit at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St Catharines. I was surprised that the Treasurer, in his remarks, did not make the announcement that the renal dialysis department would be receiving that money that's already allocated—this is not new money we're asking for—already allocated for such purposes. I know my colleagues from the Niagara Peninsula would agree with that.

Also, we would have found it easier to vote for interim supply today if indeed we had word that the Premier was going to stay home, not go on his Asian trip but stay home to try to save the jobs of GM workers in St Catharines, Oshawa, London, Windsor and other places around the province. We think there's a major decision coming on the part of General Motors. Just as I warned about this in the fall and in December of last year, I've warned the government again. It doesn't take much warning; everybody reads the papers. And Time magazine in next week's edition will be saying that it won't be 74,000 but rather 120,000 jobs lost.

Or I might have been more amenable to passing interim supply at an early time if I knew that the Treasurer as chair of the treasury board of this government would be designating funds for family and children's services and the need for new facilities both in Welland and St Catharines that all the members have been made aware of.

If we had all of those assurances that from the funds already allocated we in the Niagara Peninsula would be getting our fair share, it would make it much easier. And if we knew we were saving some money by cancelling the Premier's trip, the air flight and the hotel rooms and so on, and concentrating on the province of Ontario, we would probably be delighted to pass interim supply in an expeditious manner.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I just wanted to raise one issue related to the spending policies of this government, which I raised in a dissenting opinion with the government agencies committee, related to the operation of—

Mr Elston: Are those Mulroney glasses?

Mr Runciman: Yes, they are, as a matter of fact; hand-me-downs.

—an issue related to the operation of La Chaîne, the French arm of TVOntario. During the hearings we had where the former chairman, Mr Bernard Ostry, appeared before us, he expressed concerns about the spending directed towards La Chaîne, what he construed to be a disproportionate amount of moneys going towards the operation of La Chaîne. At the same time they are attracting a very modest number of viewers, they're absorbing something like one third of the budget of TVOntario, somewhere in the neighbourhood, Mr Treasurer, of about \$30 million.

I suggested, as part of my dissenting opinion, that we have the Provincial Auditor do a cost-benefit analysis of La Chaîne and also that we take a look, as a government, your government, at the feasibility of providing services to both language communities through the operation of one network.

Since La Chaîne was formed a number of years ago, the same percentage of French-language broadcasting has continued to occur in the English arm. I think something like 14% or 15% of the time is still allocated; if you watch TVO on Sundays, you'll notice that.

It seems to me there should be some assessment in these difficult economic times of what the real needs are out there and how we can most economically meet those needs of both language communities. It seems to me that when you raise this question, you always have these politically correct concerns that are raised, that we shouldn't even be talking about this sort of thing, and here, Mr Treasurer, we're talking about \$30 million, which I think you should be taking a very serious look at.

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, you have two minutes to reply.

Hon Mr Laughren: I felt I had to stay at least to hear what members had to say in their initial response. I was somewhat taken aback by the Liberal, the official opposition, response. I mean, for the official opposition, the party that was the government just a little over two years ago, to accuse this government of doing anything creative with numbers takes more nerve than a canal horse. It is most unseemly for the official opposition to do that.

When it comes to talking about the second-quarter finances—and the member for Etobicoke West also talked about the second-quarter finances—the second quarter ends at the end of September. There is a long and fine tradition in this province of the second-quarter finances coming out about a month after the second quarter ends, as all the numbers are assembled. There is absolutely no reason whatsoever for any delay. This government has not delayed the publication of the second-quarter finances. They will be coming out, I hope, on Thursday of this week, which is spot on when it comes to the scheduling of events around this place. So it makes no sense whatsoever for the official opposition and the third party to be complaining about the second-quarter numbers.

You know, I remember when the leader of the official opposition, the honourable Lyn McLeod, became the leader. She said: "I am going to be a leader with a difference. I am

going to bring forth constructive options for this government." Well, as someone who thinks about the economy a lot in this province and worries about where we're going, I can tell you that the only suggestion she's had is to lower gasoline taxes. She thinks that's going to solve all our economic problems.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired. Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Yes, Mr Speaker. I know the chancellor has to leave shortly, but I want to say one thing in his presence before he leaves. I'm going to be uncharacteristically moderate here this afternoon, and I'm going to deal in his absence with some of the things he said.

But I want to say this: that my friend the chancellor came before the House a couple of weeks ago and released the Economic Outlook. I was a bit vexed at that time and he said, sotto voce, that I was being too theological—I forget—dancing on a pin top or something. I just want to say to him why I was angry that day and why I'm still a bit annoyed. My friend the Treasurer is a very fine fellow, a very honourable man charged with the most rotten job in this place. I don't wish him his responsibility. Before he leaves, I want to say why I was annoyed and why the people of Ontario and their representatives in this Legislature should be annoyed.

1600

The minister of finance came to this place two weeks ago and said, in tabling the Economic Outlook—and I'll read briefly from his statement, the seventh paragraph—"In our April budget"—the April 1992 budget—"we forecast a \$9.9-billion deficit for the fiscal year"—1992-93. "While slower-than-expected nominal economic growth will reduce our revenues this year, we remain committed to achieving our budgetary deficit of \$9.9 billion."

That is hocus-pocus. It is absolutely hocus-pocus, to this extent: For the honourable Treasurer to come in here and say what we all know—that is, that the third year of this recession has ravaged revenues, I suspect by hundreds of millions of dollars, if not more—and at the same time to say, "But by the way, we're going to hold our deficit line at \$9.9 billion," without any indication now, well into the third quarter, as to how that's going to be done, is to hold this whole process up to ridicule and disrepute. I just wanted to make that comment before he left.

What is the evidence? I'm not here to withhold supply, although I think the day is coming when this Legislature is going to want to withhold supply. Because the Treasurer is right to this extent: These are not ordinary times. We are faced with some of the most serious economic challenges we've experienced in a long, long time. I agree with the Treasurer in his opening observations that no one in this House, irrespective of his political affiliation, should imagine that this is business as usual. My concern is that the Treasury bench opposite is carrying on with a breezy air that it is more or less business as usual, and it is not.

I want to just simply cite some of the data. I see the member for Perth is here, and she's nodding in a very

vigorous fashion. You know, this afternoon in New York City, I think a very proud resident of Perth county has taken on a very significant responsibility. John Smale, born in Listowel, Ontario, is by now, I expect, the head honcho at General Motors.

Mr Bradley, the member for St Catharines, is absolutely right to be focusing our attention now, as he did last year, on how immediate are the concerns with thousands of jobs in this province, now to a substantial extent in the hands of Mr John Smale, proud son of Listowel, Ontario. People had better understand. Mr Bradley is also right in telling this House that Time magazine, which will be on the street later this week, has said in New York today that the 74,000 job loss at General Motors predicted by the outgoing chair, Mr Stempel, a few months ago is expected to be upgraded from 74,000 to 120,000 jobs lost within General Motors.

Everyone knows that Ontario, happily, has a disproportionate number of those jobs relative to our share of consumption within the North American auto business. We produce something like 19% of finished auto products in the auto parts business. We've got about 19% of that market continentally and we consume about 10% of that market in terms of our domestic consumption. I don't want to localize the credit for that—a lot of people deserve the credit—but we are very exposed on this General Motor's business.

Mr Bradley said a year ago that he had heard that the foundry in St Catharines was going to close, with a loss of some 2,300 jobs. It happened, and more jobs have been lost there.

I've been reading the Wall Street Journal and reading the American press. I watched PBS the other night, the MacNeil-Lehrer Report, which dedicated its entire program to the auto sector. No one in Ontario or in the country, or in the United States, could watch that without the most nervous concern.

I'm telling you, I think Bob Rae will be high over the Pacific when we get some very bad news out of Detroit and out of New York. I hope I'm wrong. I know that we've a very productive workforce, and I know that the people at the UAW would not want to get even with Bob White and Buzz Hargrove for their separation. I know there will be factors that will support maintaining a disproportionately high level of the GM activity in Ontario, but I'm telling you, every signal I now see suggests that we are faced, and we will be faced very quickly, with painful decisions in the auto industry in this province.

Let me just go one step further. It's not just auto, it's steel. The members of the government back bench will not know what the cabinet now knows, but the Ontario cabinet has had prepared for it an analysis of the state of the Ontario steel industry, and I'm going to tell you, it is in bad shape. My information is that in addition to the thousands of jobs we've lost in Ontario steel in the last three years, on the basis of confidential government of Ontario data, we are about to lose another third of the existing jobs in Ontario steel.

I want to say to my friends opposite, if we start to lose, as we are losing, thousands of jobs in this auto industry in

Ontario and thousands of jobs as we have in steel, you want to believe the Treasurer when he says times are a-changing and this is not ordinary circumstance.

There's a great debate currently about Hydro. I just want to cite one statistic. My friends opposite are still talking as though the Hydro choices were the choices of the mid-1980s. Let me say at the outset, were mistakes made in the past? Of course they were made. Mistakes were made by the Peterson government and by the Davis government and by every government since. I want to say that quite honestly.

By the way, I saw some comments from Premier Rae the other day about Darlington. Bob Rae is a bright guy with a better education than probably any of us in this House now that Karl Morin-Strom has gone to the Ontario Northland Railroad. What I saw from Bob Rae about the recent history of Ontario Hydro was laughable it was so facile. It was an embarrassment. I fought some of those battles with him, but I have to tell you, Mr Speaker, when I hear Bob Rae's revisionism around Darlington, it makes we want to retch.

Let me just cite a couple of statistics. I went the other day to my district office of Ontario Hydro and asked for some comments about local regional demand. Let me just cite two statistics. In rural Renfrew county, two and a half years ago the megawattage that Hydro was putting out was 42 megs. Two and a half years later, that's dropped to 25 megs. There you've got one very clear local regional index where the hydro consumption has dropped by over a third in just two years. I asked further how much of that was conservation demand management and how much of it was economic downturn. Answer: overwhelmingly the latter.

Let me say up front I support every reasonable conservation and demand management strategy that all of us, or some of us in groups, can offer.

Let me just add the second statistic. I understand—I have not had this confirmed but it would accord with my local numbers—that whereas two and a half years ago Hydro was peaking at 26,000 megawatts, it is today peaking at something less than 18,000 megawatts. If that is correct, and I believe it to be generally correct, I want to say to my friends opposite, that is going to mean a couple of things immediately. It has got to mean that the cash flow at Ontario Hydro is in extremis. The financial implications of a loss of one third of your business, when you are as big, as complex and as capital intensive as Ontario Hydro, must be absolutely astounding.

I hear people—and we've had the new chair retained in recent days—still talking about the nuclear option or demand management. Those are all interesting debates, but for the here and now, my friends, they are totally irrelevant. Hydro is today swimming in a sea of excess capacity, and the trendline is down, not up.

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): Do you want to come to Sudbury and talk about that?

1610

Mr Conway: My friend opposite says—and I know exactly what she's saying. I was in Kingston the other day

talking to those people about their project. My advice to the group in Sudbury is going to be like the advice to the people in Kingston. If these economic trends continue, God forbid, if we get more bad news from General Motors, Algoma, Dofasco and Stelco, that megawattage generally is going to go from where it is reputed to be now at 18,000 megs down to an even lower point.

The issue that is going to be facing this Legislature and any government that comes here for support is not what kind of scheme we're going to develop for demand management or conservation; it is going to be, more immediately, how you're going to get the patient through the night of this most critical surgery. I'm not kidding. As I say, there aren't easy answers.

My friend the member from Lanark got turfed out of here the other day because he challenged, rightly, what the Minister of Energy is saying. On the basis of what I know, I cannot say in this House what I believe to be the position of the Minister of Energy, because the rules of conduct in this House do not allow me. But the member from Lanark was properly on his feet, crying out about the inconsistencies in the government's policy with respect to what's going on at Hydro. I'm not going to get into that to any great extent; I just simply want to make the point.

Bradley is right when he says we are at a critical point in terms of General Motors. I hope and pray that all the strengths the Premier was enumerating about the Ontario domestic auto industry carry us through the day. I hope and pray that Bob Rae is right in that very optimistic assessment. But I'm going to tell you, if he's wrong and thousands more jobs are lost at Oshawa or St Catharines, if what I'm hearing from my contacts in the steel community is right about what's going on now at Algoma, Dofasco and Stelco, then we will not have to wait for too many more weeks before we see some even more alarming news as to what's happening to the manufacturing core of Ontario.

One of the reasons I'm concerned about our current situation in a budget sense is that we're losing the best jobs in the province—in the country, in many cases. If you look at the Treasurer's document tabled here a few weeks ago and go to table 25 on page 80, there it is written large. We have lost nearly 20% of our manufacturing core jobs in the last three years.

Obviously it's not all the government's fault. I don't for a moment suggest that it's the Rae government's fault exclusively.

We've had some discussions in this place over the last few weeks about other jurisdictions. I've been surprised, quite frankly, that no one on the government side has talked about California. To me, the parallels between Ontario and California in the current environment are interesting, if not exact. Who could have imagined that in the great American republic, we would live to see a day when California was an economic basket case, which is what it apparently is. Part of their problem is that they cannot cope with the peace dividend. Tens of thousands of people are being thrown out of the best jobs in the United States of America. That's why George Bush hasn't a prayer tomorrow night in the state with the largest electoral college offering.

Look at Ontario and look at what's happening, my friends, according to your own latest economic data. We now have an unemployment rate across the province reported to be 11.3%. I think all of us know that it's well above that. We know that in Metro it's over 12%. Let me just cite some of these statistics in terms of young people in 1992, projected. We now have a youth unemployment rate reported to be at roughly 18.8%. We've got an unemployment rate in northern Ontario that's running well above the provincial average. Older workers are being thrown out of work to a much greater extent than younger workers. And on the list goes.

When I look at employment by industry in Ontario these days, I look again at manufacturing, where in 1989—I realize 1989 is a bit of an unfair benchmark, but it happens to be the government sectoral employment trends formula that I've got in front of me—just three years ago it was 1,030,000 jobs. We're now looking at roughly 175,000 fewer of those jobs, and the trend line is moving downward.

Construction: My friend Phillips, the Liberal treasury critic, was commenting the other day. We were told in the spring budget that construction was going to lead Ontario out of the current difficulty. Well, I simply ask you to look at the latest projections that construction jobs this year over last are expected to decline by something in the order of 10%.

My friend the member for Lawrence, Mr Cordiano, was talking to me earlier today about the numbers he's encountering in his part of northwestern Toronto: the numbers of construction workers who are saying that their job prospects diminish by the day.

If you look at primary, if you look at manufacturing, if you look at the construction sector—key indicators—they are all trending downward. My sister is a banker, God forbid, in this city and she was telling me the other day about—

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): The gloom and doom isn't going to work any more.

Mr Conway: My friend from Downsview opines that gloom and doom isn't going to work any more. I am not here glooming and dooming; I'm simply reading government data and saying that my sister was telling me the other day that on the basis of just looking and listening to her daily clients in the greater Toronto area, there is very little indication from the small business sector that recovery and renewal are just around the corner. In fact, the evidence suggests—

Mr Perruzza: It's looking up.

Mr Conway: Will Caliban not be restrained? I simply say that the indications from the government reports themselves are that the recovery that was talked about and promised six months ago is in fact nowhere in sight, and those are the realities.

I want to talk about revenues, because you heard me say a moment ago that I was very sceptical. I expect my friend the member for Simcoe West and certainly Mr Stockwell will want to talk about this because he in his interjection earlier, I think he was right. Well, people

laugh. There's a big joke. Let me just tell you, I'm going to give you another statistic, because I'm just reading the government data.

Let me just ask you to turn your minds to this: We were told in the spring budget that the personal income tax, retail sales tax and corporation tax yields would combine to produce this year something in the order of \$25 billion.

Mr Stockwell: Twelve per cent off.

Mr Conway: Mr Stockwell observes, rightly so, that they are off and probably off by in the order of 10%. Well, my friends, do you know what 10% of \$25 billion is? It's \$2 billion plus.

It may not be true. I just apply the federal data, and in the federal government Mazankowski is admitting that the recession is eating into his revenues in a way he had not expected and he is reporting losses that, if they are applied to Ontario, which by all national economic indicators is among the worst of the economic environments in the country—

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): Put us in the penalty box.

Mr Conway: It's not a question of putting people in the penalty box, I say to my friends opposite, but—

Mr Stockwell: It's reality.

Mr Conway: —the reality of this situation is simply this: If for whatever domestic and international reason we are now faced, as we head into the third quarter, with revenues that are off by 10% on the three big-ticket items, corporate, retail and personal income tax, that means one of two things has to happen. Either you add another \$2 billion to the deficit, in which case the Treasurer's comment that his deficit line is spot-on is transparently not true, or you have to squeeze \$2-billion worth of program spending out of your budget in the last half of this year.

Mr Elston: Exactly.

Mr Stockwell: And how much is already spent for salaries?

1620

Mr Conway: My friend from Etobicoke and my colleague from Bruce are right. To do that now as you head into the third quarter is virtually impossible.

I'm sorry if this is naysaying. I'm sorry if it sounds "gloom and doom," but I have to tell you, my friends, that the people I represent are concerned about the financial management of every government they have these days. They want me to stand in my place and say, "What's going on?"

I accept that this recession has been more severe and more long-lasting than any of us had ever expected. I agree with the Treasurer that there is very real evidence now that this is something unlike the downturns we've experienced in the mid-1970s, in the early 1980s and in the late 1950s. There is something very significant occurring, and not the least of that significant occurrence is that we in Ontario are losing the core of our wealth production, namely, our manufacturing sector. We have all got to turn our minds to that impending and that occurring reality.

I come back to Hydro. Hydro is not a fixation; for me, Hydro is a very good indicator of what's happening in the economy. I just want my friends opposite, when they go to cabinet or when they go to caucus this week, to ask the Minister of Energy if it is true that Hydro has lost roughly one third of its demand over the last two years. If that is true, any of you who've ever run anything will know that in a corporation of that size and of that capital requirement, that kind of precipitous, ongoing loss in demand and concomitant cash flow will be having unbelievable effects.

Surely we should put aside for the moment whether or not we're going to engage in this kind of demand management or that kind of demand management or this kind of conservation program or that kind of conservation program to simply acknowledge this reality. As I said a moment ago, all of the evidence that I hear and see suggests that in November 1992 Ontario Hydro is swimming in a deepening sea of excess capacity and sinking in a sea of deepening red ink. That is what we're going to have to deal with.

I don't care how illustrious your environmental reputation is, I don't care how good your federal or provincial Liberal connections are and I don't care how meritorious your past public and private sector experience has been; those are the financial realities that confront Mr Strong and his board in 1992, November 2, as they face what must be invidious choices. It cannot be long.

I'm telling you, I mentioned a moment ago the situation that's facing Mr Smale at General Motors. One of the analysts was saying the other night that, of course, because General Motors did not heed the advice and take some corrective action five and six years ago, now it is right against it and it has lost a lot of less painful options. What we will get, apparently, out of Detroit in the next few days is going to be very bloody indeed. That's not me; that's the CBS radio network earlier today, supported by Time magazine. Let's hope they are both wrong.

So what are we faced with at Ontario Hydro? We face some of those same enormously painful questions. The new chairman was quoted, "I'm not particularly interested in nuclear power." I can understand how he feels that way. A lot of people feel that way, but you know what? At this point, that's irrelevant. What you may have to do about that may certainly engage the immediate interest of Mr Jack MacDonald and CUPE 1000. Oh, boy, if I were in CUPE 1000 these days, would I be interested in some of this, because you know what further? It's going to affect my job.

My friend the member for Bruce has been on his feet speaking for the hundreds of people who work in that particular part of Ontario. I'm telling you, there are going to be a lot of people at Hydro affected by the fact that we have some choices now that are not very attractive, and the primary reason for this difficulty is not Darlington and is not a lot of other things, though they are certainly factors. The primary reason that Hydro is in extremis today is that Ontario manufacturing and other economic activities are in dire straits, and that's the problem. Demand is off, and off sharply.

My Liberal colleagues and I take the view that good public policy in this very critical time has got to focus on job creation and an environment that is going to attract new investment and retain existing investment to maintain the current employment base and, hopefully, stop the current haemorrhage and expand the employment base for young, middle-aged and older people from Pickle Lake to Cornwall and from Toronto to Timmins.

But that's not just rhetoric. That commitment is going to mean surely that we're going to have to pay attention to what's happening in our economy and be prepared to make some of the tough, painful decisions that are going to be required if we are going to put some economic reality to the political rhetoric that, quite frankly, we all happily espouse.

I repeat, if the numbers that the Treasurer has given us are to be credited, then one has got to believe that his revenue line is minimally hundreds of millions of dollars off the April projections, and it has got to mean some very substantial additional pressures on the Treasurer and on the government.

Mr Stockwell: They don't understand.

Mr Conway: I've got to believe they understand. I know that I may not be representing this as some of my friends opposite would like, but I do not think that there is very much in what I have said that could be challenged, and if it can, I will be happy to hear from honourable members later in this debate.

Just a couple of other issues in terms of the economic situation. I guess this is a good opportunity for me to make a comment about a couple of local issues. I represent Renfrew county, or most of it; Mr Jordan represents the bottom third. In my area, the forest economy is one of the key employers for thousands of people in little communities like Whitney, Deux-Rivieres and Barry's Bay and bigger towns like Pembroke, Eganville and Braeside. Most of the men and women in places like that who depend—and I know my friend from South Hastings knows many of these communities—are either out of work or faced with the prospect of imminent unemployment.

In a place like Barry's Bay or Palmer Rapids, or Denbigh in the upper end of Mr Wilson's riding in north Addington, it's the only game in town. If you're not working in the forest industry, chances are you're going to be forced on to some kind of relief, as we used to say in the old days—a pejorative term, for sure. I'm just telling you that we've got unemployment rates in the forest sector of unprecedented levels in places like Killaloe, Denbigh, Bancroft, Barry's Bay and Pembroke.

In the absence of my friend the Minister of Natural Resources, I want to say that in communities like Pembroke we've got a veneer mill, Canada Veneers, which employs over 250 people, teetering on the edge, and here I think it is fair for the government today to blame previous governments for some of what was and was not done.

I can say that I looked back on the forest policy of the last 25 to 40 years, and we made some very regrettable errors, not just in government but in the private sector and in some of the collateral activities as well. Our backs are right up against it, and I want to say that those men and

women who work at Canada Veneers in Pembroke, who have been coming to see me almost on a daily basis, who are wondering just what their future is, we owe it to them to recognize that forest policy in this province has got to change. We've got to be willing to make some of the tough decisions, some of the tough decisions that are going to affect some of our friends in the environmental movement. I'm not arguing a return to the 1970s, where the attitude was significantly cut and run.

Industry has a responsibility. When people say to me, "Why is there no veneer left in the eastern part of Ontario?" I ask the question, "Who cut it all, and what did they do about helping make sure that there was a new generation of this high-quality material so that those people who work in the veneer mills in Pembroke and Rutherglen would have some prospect of sustaining employment?" Their business has some very tough questions to answer, and I'm not so sure that the answers are going to be very good.

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Fortunes have been made in the veneer business in this province, absolutely staggering fortunes, and now we find ourselves in a situation where we have depleted the resource, where we have, in my part of east-central and northeastern Ontario, three or four mills left. If they're going to survive, we are going to have to get together, and soon, to fundamentally reorder public policy and private practice. It's going to be painful, and not too many of the stakeholders are going to like it, but in my view it is the only choice we have left.

If we have not got the will to do that, then people working in the veneer mill in Pembroke, and in sawmills in Madawaska and Eganville and Bancroft, are going to be walking the unemployment lines. I simply want to say on behalf of those people, those men and women who have no easy alternative other than the jobs they've had for many years, that we owe it to them, I think, to make some of the change that is required.

Just in summary, I want to touch on one or two other things. We are currently in a very interesting time politically. I was saying parenthetically to the Treasurer that last night I watched the Perot infomercial, the half-hour. I don't know whether anyone else saw it. I would not be voting for Ross Perot. I think he is a very interesting, quixotic individual with a very healthy ego, which would, of course, entitle him to public office.

I thought that was the most powerful and effective political message I've seen in a long time, because he was able to take some very key economic data particularly and present them to the American people in a way that I think was fair and understandable. I think we had better understand that times are a-changin', not just for people outside of this place, but for those of us elected here.

I want to just say briefly something about the referendum. It was a very good debate. I think it was a very positive debate for the people of Ontario and the people of Canada. But I think there is a reality check that is going to be needed for some people, because I'm still getting the impression that there are people out there in the so-called elite who have not yet understood what happened on Mon-

day. A question was put, a question was debated and a question was settled in the negative almost uniformly across the country.

I read editorials, and I hear certain politicians talking as though Monday really didn't mean very much. I agree with the member for Cochrane South. I believe Monday meant something very significant and very telling. A very significant chapter has closed. My constituents in Renfrew North, many of whom voted in districts four to one on the No side, want me to know and to say that from their point of view, No meant no. If this fixation about an inside-the-Beltway endless constitutional debate among overpaid constitutional advisers and well-paid politicians and editorialists continues unabated after Monday, then democracy has failed in a very fundamental way.

I think what we are hearing from the people, whether it's in the referendum debate here or in the so-called Perot phenomenon in the United States, is, "Elected officials, listen to the people and make sure you hear what they are telling you." I believe that most people heard clearly what was said here on Monday last, and I'm fully expecting that all of us are going to act accordingly.

I want to make this comment as well about the politics of the economy and about politics generally. It is quite clear that the public, whether they are in Ontario or in Nebraska, are cynical about politicians and the political process because they can now see through so much of the patina that we put before them. They know the economy is hurting. They know in their daily lives that things are not as good as they once were. They understand that governments, like families, are going to be faced to make some tough choices.

What people in my county are simply saying is: "Level with us. Give us the goods, give us the information that will allow us to make an informed decision. We're not going to like it—we may even throw you out of office—but for heaven's sake, stop lying to us."

I watch this campaign in the United States, and I probably would vote for Clinton if I had a choice, but I'm telling you that I think Governor Clinton is painting himself into a very, very tight corner, because I think he is misleading the American public on key economic choices. Within months, he's going to be forced to look out from the Oval Office and say, "You might have read my lips, you might have read my program, but I can't deliver and please trust me to get it right a second time."

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Bush is trying that.

Mr Conway: Well, Bush has tried it. When he made the comment about, "Read my lips," he, as a bright, knowledgeable, very experienced politician knew that it was a transparent impossibility, and he did it because like most politicians, he thought it would secure firmly his election to the White House.

I'm just simply going to—

Mr Elston: It did the first time.

Mr Conway: And it did the first time. There is evidence that he could have in fact gotten to the White House without compromising himself to such an extent.

Interjection: Why raise it?

Mr Conway: Why do I raise this? I raise it because we have a very, very significant ideological cleavage in this Parliament over the labour bill.

Mr Bisson: Ideological cleavage?

Mr Conway: Yes, an ideological cleavage: That is a very legitimate, political science expression, and if it offends anyone, I'm sorry. But the point I want to make is that this Legislature continues to do battle over Bill 40, with our friends on the government bench saying, and the Premier said it in Sault Ste Marie the other day: "This is the cornerstone of economic renewal. This is the pill that will cure the ailing patient." We've got Liberals and Tories in different ways saying, "Listen, we think this is fundamentally flawed."

I'm saying to my constituents what I'm saying here, that while there are elements of Bill 40 that I can certainly support, overall the policy is untimely, unbalanced and, I believe, in key components, unworkable.

But quite apart from our partisan positions on this subject, believe me when I say that the men and women who are going to generate the economic recovery, the people who by virtue of their private, personal savings or by virtue of their management of a big pension fund account, to an overwhelming degree those people are saying: "We don't agree with you, Bob Rae. We believe that Bill 40 is going to injure, not assist, economic recovery and renewal." To people outside the Beltway, they look at this inside government quarrel inside the Legislature and they say, "Well, why can't they understand?"

It reminds me a bit of my constituents telling me, "Doesn't David Peterson get it about Meech Lake?" You know what? We didn't. We didn't get it, and we got it. We got it real good, and we deserved a good bit of what we got because we didn't listen.

Mr Bisson: You didn't go down because of Meech Lake.

Mr Conway: No, I'm not saying that we went down just because of Meech, but I'll tell you, for a lot of people I represent, it came to symbolize just how out of touch the government had gotten.

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): That's right.

Mr Conway: My friend from Guelph agrees.

My point, as we face unemployment rates of an unprecedented kind, as we face over 600,000 people out of work or looking for work, as we face a mountain of debt, is that I remind people it took 123 years to build an accumulated provincial debt of \$35 billion. In the space of the four-and-a-half years of the Rae government's mandate, we will, in four-and-a-half years, match or double what it took how many previous governments to build up in over 123 years.

Mr Elston: Shameful.

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Mr Conway: It may not be shameful, but it's certainly worrisome, and it is going to substantially reduce the options that future governments, perhaps a future NDP government, will have in respect of the choices they are going to want to employ to provide for good social programs,

good youth employment programs and all the good things that the provincial government can and should be doing.

So as we vote interim supply, I guess I'm simply pleading with my friends opposite to look at the facts. The facts are that the recession is marching on, and it's more than just an academic march; it is a march that is having an almost cancerous effect on the economic vitals of the government and of the province.

And some of the traditional remedies that even good social democrats and Keynesian liberals might apply don't seem to be working. We all know that our constituents are up to their necks in taxes, there's tax fatigue. I'm going to tell you, if Mr Laughren and friends think they can march out and add to the tax burden, I think they have another thought coming.

We know, for example, that we can't borrow much more than we've got right now, because increasingly, you see, we're turning the financial management of the province and the country over to Frankfurt and Tokyo and New York. More and more of the provincial and federal debt is being held by people outside the country. That, particularly for social democrats, who have an economic nationalist streak in them, must be abhorrent. But that's what's happening and that's got real and not-too-far-distant impacts.

So I simply say, whether it's on Hydro, whether it's on the deficit, whether it's on programs—I mean, people talk about new programs and I just simply want to roll over. I heard from another good source the other day, and this wouldn't surprise me at all, that government departments like Community and Social Services are at work trying to find a way to take a billion dollars out of their base budget, and I believe that. Those are the choices we are going to be looking at if this situation does not almost immediately right itself. I suspect that's probably one of the more attractive choices that the treasury committee is going to be looking at.

Let me be local again, and I'll probably offend somebody in Renfrew county. I picked up the paper the other day and I saw where the Ontario government was offering a \$40,000 grant to the Renfrew County Walking Club. Listen, I think walking is wonderful, I support walking in every way possible. I have not looked into the details and I'll beg a little bit of indulgence, both here and at home, but my first reaction I suspect was the reaction of a lot of people who I represent: We're broke, we're worse than broke, and we're spending 40,000 scarce dollars to launch a walking club. A walking club. Now, in the salad days of the 1960s or the late 1980s—

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): Why do you need money to walk?

Mr Conway: That's exactly what my mother wanted to know. You know what? I didn't have a very good answer for her. I say again, I endorse walking and I endorse walking clubs, but we are now in a financial situation that is extremely severe and I believe does not allow us that kind of luxury.

I'm going to take my seat, but before I do—I know Mr Wilson from Simcoe is going to favour us with an address—I want to just cite a couple of paragraphs from a

recent speech from Senator Rudman in the United States. Senator Rudman is a two-term Republican from New Hampshire who is not running again. He's a very interesting fellow. I like Warren Rudman. He's an iconoclast, as so many politicians in New Hampshire are. But I want my friends to listen to this. I want people to listen to this because this is—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: His running mate, I say to my friend from Guelph, these days is Senator Tsongas, who comes from the next-door state, probably one of the most liberal states, and Tsongas certainly had a pretty liberal voting record when he was in Congress and in the Senate. So you've now got Tsongas and Rudman with the so-called Concord coalition. I want to just read a couple of lines. If anybody's interested, I'll make a copy of this six-page speech, because I think it's one of the most thought-provoking speeches I've read in a long time.

Rudman, in one of his last speeches in the Senate, did an evaluation of the administration tax plan—he's a Republican, and the administration is Republican—and then he did an analysis of the Democratic tax plan. He said that both plans were gilt-edged, transparent fictions. They were complete fictions, both the President's plan and the Democratic plan. Having said that, I'm just going to cite a couple of references. He's talking about the kind of debate they're having in the United States, and in many ways it's the kind of debate we're having, or not having, here.

But Senator Rudman, a few months ago, said, for example: "In the next five years" in the United States, federal "entitlement programs are projected to grow by 8.1% annually for a five-year cumulative increase of \$800 billion. I repeat, \$800 billion, but there has been little discussion of this problem. Instead, the public debate has been about whether, in this same period, to cut defense by \$50 billion or \$100 billion and to figure out how to spend those savings five times over."

He goes on finally to say:

"I want to continue here for a minute with some personal thoughts. I have been here now for over 10 years, and with all due respect to the castigating and the pummeling that the Congress generally takes, I would have to say that I have never in my life served with so many extraordinary people as I serve with in this body. There is almost no one here—in fact, there is no one here in whom I do not find some element of redeeming value. Some more than others. But the fact is that we are unable, institutionally, to do what has to be done. We are literally not watching the fiddler fiddle while Rome burns; we are watching the entire orchestra. How is it that in the early spring or late winter of 1992, with a federal budgetary deficit reaching \$400 billion, with a country in economic disarray; how can we responsibly stand on this floor and talk about doing anything that has even the slightest chance of adding, not a dime, but a penny to" this mountain of debt?

"I think I have the answer. I think I have finally figured it out after 11 years. And that is that we are afraid to level with the American people, because they have been lied to for so long. Maybe 'lie' is a strong word. Maybe we have

simply not told them the whole truth. Look at the 1980 presidential campaign, the 1984 campaign, the 1988 campaign"—and on he goes.

And on we go. I simply resume my seat this afternoon saying that we are fast approaching a point where these kinds of supply motions and supply debates are not even worth the time we dedicate to them if we're not prepared to start looking at some of the hard choices and some of the real options.

I am very concerned, I am increasingly concerned, that this government, that this Legislature fiddle on while the Ontario economy deteriorates in ways that are going to have a very real impact for us today but, much more important, for our children tomorrow. If we got a reality check last Monday in the referendum and have now committed ourselves at all political levels to turn our minds and our energies to the economy, we'd better smarten up and start offering our constituents some of the real choices based on real information.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Questions and or comments?

Mr Bisson: I listened intently to the member for Renfrew, who always has some valuable contributions to give. I guess all I want to say to the member is that, on the premise of what he is talking about, I think all of us in this Legislature hear what he's saying. But in the description and the verbiage utilized in order to try to get to his point—I guess what I'm trying to say is that the cure he is looking for is probably a heck of a lot worse than what we're suffering right now.

1650

We as politicians to a certain extent have created a certain amount of the problem we have with regard to the way we're viewed by the public. Part of the reason is the way we sometimes interact with each other inside this Legislature.

Yes, I guess the member is right in that politicians to a certain extent, probably to a great extent, have gone out sometimes a little bit faster than the public is able to keep with us. The only thing I'd want to say is this: Yes, we are going through hard economic times. Yes, there is something called the recession that's going on. Yes, there are people who are hurting in this province, as they are all over North America and in Europe. But to suggest the cure is a radical departure with regard to how we manage our problems fiscally and how we manage those dollars I think is quite difficult, because in this whole equation there are people.

I think the challenge we have as governments is that we have to turn around and say yes, we have to manage down our costs, but we have to be careful in the way we do that, that we don't all of a sudden pull out the rug from underneath a whole bunch of programs and let the people fall where they may, because we know what the costs of that will be.

I think the challenge every government faces, ours or any other government across this country, is finding a way to manage down those costs, at the same time keeping in

mind that there are people in those equations and that we have to be careful they're not hurt in the process.

We know there will be pain. I hope I have an opportunity later on in the debate to carry this on, because he raises some points that I think are quite interesting.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Again, my honourable colleague, who has spoken so eloquently about this situation—I know if he'd had more time, he'd have gone into many other areas that need to be attended to. In the limited time he has been given, I think he has covered a lot of ground. I hope, though, that the government has listened very carefully, because I know he'd have wanted to have extended more about the separate school funding that goes on in areas like my area. They're calling out for the government to act immediately on this. All the promises they have made—they're looking at an interim supply bill right now, and it doesn't seem that they are attending to the matters that should be attended to.

I recall too that the honourable member wanted to mention, of course, about the anti-racism strategy the government announced, with a lot of grandeur and trumpeting, about spending about \$7.3 million that was supposed to be appropriated to that. Only \$4.5 million has been actually allocated.

We're saying to the government, "While we're not blaming all the problems on you, you have the opportunity now, first, to have a very constructive opposition that is guiding you in that direction, and we hope you listen rather carefully."

At one time I heard this member making a comment to my colleague that the politicians seem to be ahead of the people. The fact is that the people are always ahead of the politicians. There's nothing wrong with that. We have to listen carefully. We bring back to the Legislative Assembly, listen to what is happening and respond to that. Even the way they introduced this interim supply, right now in dealing with it, tells you that they're not even ready to govern. It's unfortunate that that's the case, but on the other hand it's very fortunate that my dear colleague has addressed that so forcefully.

The child care matter, for instance: People are crying out for more funding and I hope we will have an opportunity in this debate to get into that in more detail.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Whenever the member for Renfrew North speaks, he always has something worthwhile to say and his eloquence is something we always appreciate in this House.

Sometimes it's where he's coming from that bothers me, because certainly when he was in government not that long ago, he had a chance to establish a climate for industry and for the marketplace, and yet during the Peterson years we saw a great number of new taxes levied.

None the less, his point is a valid one today, as he looks at what's going on in the province now. We are seeing the economy in Ontario very slowly beginning to come out of the recession. Certainly at a presentation I attended last week with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, we

are seeing signs of growth and improvement. But what we want from the government is to establish an environment for business so that business will feel like investing in itself, or outside investors will feel like coming into Ontario.

We're into an economic climate where not only Ontario is impacted by tough economic days but the North American continent; around the world, in fact. Every country is coping with it. But really it should be the challenge for Mr Rae and his government to begin to establish the kind of working relationship with business and investors, outside investors, so they will want to put their money in Ontario, that they'll invest in Ontario.

I have to believe that part of the problem now is Bill 40 and labour legislation, which is seen by business as being anti-business. When you have a government that's coming along with its own high taxation levels, again having to take the cream of the funding away from businesses, it's a disincentive for business to come along and invest in Ontario.

So when I listen to the member for Renfrew North, I think he makes his point well today and I appreciate what he's trying to say. I think, as well, that hopefully the government will begin to learn some of these basics. So far it hasn't. It has had two years to do something about it, and we haven't seen any progress.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant.

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): As I was listening to the honourable member bring his stories out and talk about how tough it is, it reminds me of a Father Mooney, who talked to us at the Lutheran church. We wanted to promote the crisis in rural Ontario and the small businesses being destroyed. He was one who initiated the Catholic rural life, and 10 years ago he realized, because he listened to some economists who said things cannot be sustainable if you're going to allow big business to be competitive against small business, with tax breaks etc that are not fair.

He said, "You know, you can sit here all you want and cry in your soup, but at some point you have to get on with action." So it makes it well that he talks about all the things that we have been blessed with because the seeds were sown, maybe not two years ago or five years ago; maybe even 10 years ago. It makes it sound as if we're the ones who caused the problem. We recognize very much on this side of the House how tough it is.

I listened to PBS-type shows 10 years ago and it irked me that if I could understand that things cannot be sustainable, if governments will not listen to everybody, we are going to be in a mess like this. Those predictions, unfortunately, have come true. Unfortunately, as fate would have it, I'm one of the ones who is here to try to fix it, but so be it. Like any business I've been in during the last 10 or 15 years, I will work it the best I can.

This government has been the most honest and forward in its dealings with the people. As you said, sir, the population out there knows very well how tough it is. In fact, I would say they understand it far more than you or I do.

But one of the things I point out to them is, why did the Liberal government allow Ontario Hydro to spend only in nuclear? Why did the Tory government do it? I'd say it came down to simple things. They listened to a few who lobbied very hard for their nuclear version, but nobody questioned who was going to pay for it.

You talk about the logging thing. Very quickly, in Oregon there was a company that did have sustainable forest—in Washington. Yet one company bought it, tore the company apart and in one generation destroyed it all. That's the kind of economics we've had to put up with, and yes, we are going to change that.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Renfrew North has two minutes in response.

Mr Conway: I thank my colleagues for their observations. I say in summary simply this: We are faced now, in the third quarter of the fiscal year 1992-93, with some very alarming data. My submission to the House is that the budget, quite frankly, ought to be rewritten, and probably is being rewritten, because on the basis of the latest Economic Outlook information, the projections the Rae government made just six months ago are in fact well off the mark.

My submission is that even the most conservative assessment of revenue losses would put the revenue line off by hundreds of millions of dollars, perhaps as much as \$2 billion, though I don't know that to be the case. But there is absolutely no question that the recession is eating at the very core of the economy in this province and that we, all of us, have to turn our attention to what that means.

It is true that we've developed over the course of the salad years in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s a panoply of spending for a whole range of good and worthy projects that we may now not be able to sustain on the basis of a shrunken and reduced economic pie.

I'm a Liberal. I may be inherently optimistic. I hope that we can stimulate growth and bring back much of that lost activity. But just because I'm a Liberal doesn't mean I'm some kind of fool, that I can't see what is in front of me. What is in front of me, on the basis of key economic indicators, proves the Treasurer's point that these are very, very different times and they call for more radical action, particularly on the program reduction side, than this government has shown a willingness to undertake at the present time.

If we're going to have any credibility with the public out there, we've got to give them an honest picture, and that honesty's got to begin with the leader of the government, Mr Rae, staying home and dealing with the immediate crisis in Ontario steel and auto and not going off around the world to talk to foreign business.

1700

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate on motion number 20, interim supply.

Mr Jim Wilson: I appreciate the opportunity to speak on interim supply this afternoon. May I begin by saying that it is always a challenge to follow the member for Renfrew North, who is indeed an excellent speaker and who makes his points very clearly. It's obvious, in listen-

ing to him for the past hour or so, that his years of experience in this House show forth and that he truly is a great representative of the people of his riding. I want to say I don't necessarily agree with everything he has to say and I do wonder where he went wrong in his youth when he became a Liberal, but none the less, I do appreciate his comments and always enjoy his oratory.

The member for Renfrew North correctly pointed out in his summation that the number one issue, as all members know—and we hear it every day from our constituents and the people in Ontario—is certainly jobs in this province, and it's the economy. I think the previous member correctly pointed out that the Premier should not be leaving on a six-day jaunt to Asia, that we've not had the Premier in this House over the several weeks that he was running around the province dealing with the Charlotte-town constitutional accord. The Premier has only been back in the House a few days, intermittent attendance at that, and now he's off to Asia on a jaunt and I don't think the Premier can justify the expense of that trip. The last time he left the province on one of his world jaunts, a number of significant things happened.

There are serious issues, such as the 500 jobs that are being lost each day that this government's in office, that the Premier really should be addressing here at home. He promised, after the No vote on the constitutional accord some two weeks ago, that his number one priority would be the Ontario economy and jobs in Ontario. We've once again seen a broken promise by the Premier.

But I want to talk about rural Ontario. I know it's an issue that's very dear and near to your heart, Mr Speaker, as a representative of rural Ontario. Much of my riding is composed of farms and good people who are farmers, farm families who are having a very difficult time struggling through the economic downturn and the restructuring in the economy. But that's not new for farmers. It's not new for farmers at all, because over the past many years the farm community has been having a very difficult time making ends meet.

I would say, though, on the issue of funding for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, that I'm absolutely dismayed that we've not only seen cuts in the red meat plan but we've seen additional cuts of 9.5% in the ministry's budget again this year. Farmers are wondering why, when this government, for many years in opposition, proclaimed that agriculture was so important to it and where it got a number of significant votes in rural Ontario in the September 1990 election, it is abandoning rural Ontario.

The first issue I want to raise is of course a local issue in my riding of Simcoe West. It involves Ontario Hydro's plans to build a transformer station near the village of Beeton. As all members will know, under the Liberal government the village of Beeton, along with the township of Tecumseth, the village of Tottenham and the town of Alliston were restructured into one municipality, now called the town of New Tecumseth.

I'm proud to say on one hand that the new mayor of the town, as of the last municipal election, is George McCague, my predecessor in this Legislature. George has been dealing with some very difficult issues as mayor of

that new town. One of them deals with this STR project, as it's called, the Sudbury to Toronto Area Transmission Reinforcement project, which is the bureaucratese that comes to us from Ontario Hydro to describe this project.

I want to begin by thanking a number of people in the local area who have worked and are working very hard. They've come together under a group called ROOSTR, which stands for Residents of Ontario Opposed to the Sudbury to Toronto Reinforcement Project. Very forcefully—they've made the point to me and by sending cards, petitions and letters to the Premier directly—they're making the point to this government that, if it really cares about rural Ontario, why at a time when, as the member for Renfrew North correctly points out, Ontario Hydro has excess capacity, are Ontario Hydro and this government and the Ministry of Energy hell-bent on proceeding with a project that will consume some 250 acres of prime agricultural land?

All members should know that this area of Toronto is probably the last buffer zone between the greater Toronto area and the rest of the province. It is a beautiful, picturesque area—Tecumseth township and the village of Beeton—and this government, in spite of pleas from myself and local residents, wants to drive ahead, consume 250 acres and build a transformer station that cannot be justified. It's indicative of, I think, the theme of my remarks this afternoon, which is that we've really lost any common sense in government whatsoever. You'd have to look really hard around here to find any common sense on the government side. It's mind-boggling.

I want to bring a chronology to the STR project. On July 16 I attended a public meeting with Ontario Hydro representatives and local residents in the village of Bond Head, and at that meeting local residents raised many important questions and concerns. It's my sense that many of these questions and concerns were not adequately addressed by representatives of Ontario Hydro. In a letter dated July 20, 1992, I wrote to the Honourable Brian Charlton, the Minister of Energy, to express those concerns.

What Ontario Hydro wants to do is run a new transmission power line over from Manitoba to Sudbury, down the east side of Lake Simcoe, across the bottom of Lake Simcoe and, right in the Beeton area, create a 250-acre transformer station that is to act as a hub. More appropriately, and what was admitted by Ontario Hydro representatives, in the future this very well could become an octopus. Part of that octopus will extend down to supply power to southwestern Ontario and to the greater Toronto area.

It doesn't make sense, when you consider that the Liberal government did sign an agreement with Manitoba Hydro to buy power from Manitoba Hydro, but because of the real incompetence of the NDP government over the past few years in its ability to deal with jobs and the economy, we've seen a mass exodus of companies and firms leave the province. The member for Renfrew North brought a local example forward in his remarks about how demand is down significantly in Renfrew county. I think the statistics he quoted were that demand was down 50% over the past couple of years. It is the same experience in my part of the province and the same experience in Metro-

politan Toronto. Demand is down because we've seen a mass exodus of companies that at one time would have consumed great amounts of power.

Does it make any sense that the government wants to continue with this transformer/transmission station project at a time when the deal with Manitoba Hydro is on hold? Ontario has excess power; therefore, we don't need Manitoba's power. The justification for this line, which was to bring the power in from Manitoba down to southwestern Ontario and the Toronto area, just isn't there.

"At that meeting on July 16, local residents found the justification for the line and station installation to be somewhat unclear and unsound." I'm just reading from the letter I wrote to Mr Charlton, the Minister of Energy, on July 20. "Ontario Hydro representatives cited a planned purchase of hydro from Manitoba as the key reason. I find this assertion somewhat curious, as during the last provincial election your party"—that's the NDP—"maintained that with a proper conservation program such a purchase would be unnecessary."

I posed the question in this letter to the minister:

"If the proposed purchase of Manitoba hydro does not occur, will Ontario Hydro still consider this project a pressing need? Furthermore, would it not make sense to address the power concerns closer to the source of the need—ie, why is the transformer station being put in the village of Beeton area rather than in the GTA? Such a plan would be all the more sensible when one considers that the area of Beeton under study contains some of the province's finest agricultural land."

As I said, "This project will consume some 250 acres and local residents are absolutely opposed to it," opposed to the extent that the New Tecumseth council, under the leadership of George McCague, passed a resolution on September 21.

1710

I want to read that resolution into the record because I think it's one of the best and clearest indications of what is wrong with this project that I've seen to date. It reads:

"Whereas Ontario Hydro has failed to make the case that it needs massive new hydro transmission corridors from Sudbury to Toronto, presumably ignoring their large investment in Darlington nuclear energy and energy conservation programs available; and

"Whereas a recent report from the Ontario Energy Board condemns Ontario Hydro's operations, particularly the poor performance to date of the Darlington reactors, excessive staff levels, excessive compensation levels and the poor record of predicting future growth"—as an aside, "excessive compensation levels" is stating the case mildly when you consider that Maurice Strong, the new chairman of Ontario Hydro who was just recently appointed by the Premier, will be paid some \$425,000 per year plus benefits—"and"

"Whereas a number of private and public companies and corporations are exploring the alternatives at their disposal for constructing and producing their own energy requirements;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the council of the town of New Tecumseth requests that Ontario Hydro take

no further action on their Sudbury to Toronto area transmission reinforcement project, since we have serious concerns regarding not only the need for such facilities but also the health and safety of New Tecumseth's residents, the effects upon arable land and farming activities and the quality of the local environment; and further, that we actively oppose the project on an ongoing basis."

I think that best summarizes the objections of local ratepayers to this project, and on September 30, I, of course, made a statement in the House which reflected the sentiments expressed in council's resolution.

In summation on this project, I want to once again thank the good people of ROOSTR. I want to encourage the people of Simcoe West and New Tecumseth to continue to hammer away at the government to help me to continue to bring this issue forward. Keep writing letters. Keep signing petitions. Keep sending those cards into the Premier's office, because we have to keep in mind that in September 1990 when we went to the polls and when I was elected to this government, I suffered through a 38-day campaign where clearly the NDP indicated to the people of Ontario that it had all the answers.

Certainly at that time, I can tell you, from the bottom of my heart, with all sincerity, that the local NDP candidate in my riding would have opposed this STR project, would have been screaming at the top of his lungs about that awful corporation, Ontario Hydro, and the need to get it under control. He even had Ontario Hydro in that list of corporate welfare bums that the NDP used to talk about so frequently in opposition. He pretended, as did many of the NDP candidates—many of them are now members in this Legislature—that the NDP somehow had a corner on compassion.

Yes, when I went to the hundreds of doors in my riding of Simcoe West during that election campaign, I was faced with three issues. One was Brian Mulroney, which I could easily answer: I indicated that my boss was Mike Harris and not the Prime Minister of Canada, that we were in a provincial election and that it was not the time to judge the federal party. They'll be judged, I think, within the next eight months; there'll be a federal election.

At the doors I had to deal with the issue—it was an easier issue, obviously, being an Ontario PC—of the arrogance of Mr Peterson for calling an early election and the spend, spend, spend, tax, tax ways of the Liberals, which incidentally we've seen the NDP continue.

Third, I had to deal with what people felt was the person of Bob Rae and the character of Bob Rae, now the Premier of the province. A number of people told me that he was a very smart individual and that there was no way he would ever do the things like allow this STR project to proceed.

A number of people indicated in different ways the tremendous compassion. At that time, you couldn't out-green the NDP. You couldn't be more holier than they were on a number of issues.

If we've seen anything, it's that this government does not have a corner on compassion. If we've seen anything in hindsight, now that we've had the Liberals and the NDP in office, under 42 years of Ontario PC rule, my party has

a record on compassion that's second to none, and I make no apology.

We established the schools and the roads that they at one time criticized my predecessors for building, because they said the 401 and the 400 highways were too big and were going nowhere. Well, this afternoon, one need simply get on the highway and see the traffic jam that's there now.

We built the hospitals rather than close hospital beds. We've seen over 5,000 beds closed by the NDP government in the past year, this from a party that pretended to be compassionate. We've seen a freeze on nursing home beds and on beds in homes for the aged. We've seen no movement on long-term care.

In the area of health care, of which I am critic, we certainly see that this government doesn't have compassion. I will speak a little later about the topic I brought forward in the Legislature during the past few question periods regarding the terrible abuse that's going on with the OHIP health card system.

I hope that in the next provincial election the people in the province won't simply go to the polls to kick out a government, as they did when they kicked out David Peterson, but that they'll go to the polls with a positive intention rather than simply booting out a government. When you do that, when you go there simply to mark your X to throw someone out, the chips fall where they may and you end up with this really awful government—it's about the only way I can politely say it—a government that's void of compassion, a government that's doing all kinds of things we never, ever would have dreamed it would do.

People ask me on a weekly basis how to get this government out of office. Well, it would take the support of the Liberals and a few backbenchers in the NDP to pass a vote of non-confidence. That's how we get them out of office in our democratic process.

They're doing all kinds of things that no one would have predicted, including allowing this STR project to proceed at the village of Beeton. I think it's immoral. I think it's a crime that a government that at one time talked about preserving agricultural land, a government that recently floated the idea of giving Niagara fruit growers some \$20 million to preserve agricultural land, would allow a project to proceed that will usurp, turn into concrete and a massive octopus of wire some 250 acres of some of the most beautiful land in this province.

I hope that when people go to the polls they'll be more positive next time and that they'll vote in a government, because you know in any equation, in any logical or mathematical equation, if you introduce a negative at some point in a sum equation or a difference equation, of course you end up with a negative at the end. When we mix positives and negatives and we want to throw out one government and we want to do all kinds of crazy things, the point that people have to keep in mind is that in our democracy, the way the system was designed, you've got to get the name of the candidate you trust most, the name of the candidate you believe best represents your views and the name of the candidate who won't spend four days a week in Queen's Park or in Ottawa and then go back on the weekend to lecture his or her constituents about what's

good for them. That's not what our democracy was designed to accommodate.

Our democracy, when Plato and Aristotle and Burke and yes, even de Tocqueville designed the system, they never envisioned—and I think this is one of the great problems we're seeing with this government today and indeed with the government in Ottawa—that politicians would take it upon themselves to decide what's best for their constituents and then, as I say, go home on weekends and lecture people about what's good for them. We've seen that time and time again from this government, which did not learn from the experience of the federal government and the tough time it's going through.

The STR project in Beeton is just one example that I want to raise this afternoon of not listening to the people, of an absolute failure to listen to the people in my riding. I just encourage all the good residents of Beeton and Tecumseth township and the town of New Tecumseth to keep the pressure on, because it was the NDP that invented, as a political tool, the petition and the demonstrations out front. It's come back to haunt them in terms of hardly a day going that by we don't see demonstrations out in front of Queen's Park.

Another terrible ill that's been inflicted upon the good people of the village of Beeton deals with the construction of what we call locally the McKelvey well. It was an attempt, if I may give some history, prior to Beeton being restructured, prior to the village being incorporated with three other municipalities to form the town of New Tecumseth—I may add, a forced restructuring by the Liberals: no public debate, simply a passage of Bills 177 and 178, and forcing these people to become part of a larger, amalgamated municipality. Somehow the Liberals and the NDP are doing the same thing in the north part of Simcoe county. Somehow these two other parties believe that bigger is better and that bigger government and more bureaucracy somehow brings efficiency. I don't see it, and I've been opposed to these restructurings.

1720

But before they were restructured in January 1990, the village of Beeton council was, I think through no fault of its own, led along a financial garden path that's really led to increases in water rates, over the last couple of months, of 181%. That's the average increase of water rates in the village of Beeton today.

When the well was initially proposed, it was going to be a \$700,000 project. In a letter I wrote on October 14 to Ruth Grier—to which I've not received a response today, but I'm still waiting—I note:

"The project started at \$700,000 to upgrade both the village's well capacity and the quality of its water. By October 1988, the estimate had risen to \$2.5 million. Ten months later, the cost to upgrade the well rose to \$3.2 million. In June 1990, Beeton council was approached with a new cost estimate for the same project of approximately \$6 million. There was one more increase in store to the original cost of \$700,000. By January of this year, 1992, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Labour dictated that the final bill would be \$6.7 million."

As a result, we've seen a tremendous increase in the water rates paid by the 2,300 residents in the village of Beeton. They cannot afford—many of them are unemployed. It's a beautiful area of the province, but it's not, by any stretch of the imagination, a wealthy area of the province. We find that many people live there because they want to own a home and they couldn't afford home prices in Toronto so they've moved into Beeton. They're just great people, who came out in full force just a few weeks ago to the Beeton arena, some 400 residents, to scream as loudly as they could that they weren't going to put up with this nonsense from the NDP government.

It's incumbent upon the NDP government to pay the full cost of the McKelvey well, simply because all the way along—the project, as I said, was originally estimated to cost \$700,000, ends up at \$6.7 million; the town has had to debenture several million dollars over 15 years, the interest has to be paid on that, and therefore water rates have skyrocketed—all the way along the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of the Environment couldn't decide, couldn't get their act together, and over a three-year period kept imposing new standards, new rules, new regulations. Unilaterally, the government, Queen's Park, through the ministries of Labour and the Environment, drove the cost of this project up to some nine times the original cost estimate.

It's also seen in the local area, and I think it's true, that because of a filtration and limestone system that's used in this well, the well is very unique to Ontario; in fact, we are told it's a guinea pig project, a pilot project. The people of Beeton certainly feel they're being used as guinea pigs.

As a result of occupational health and safety, as I said, new environmental rules that were being made up by Ruth Grier, the Minister of the Environment and her bureaucrats, the cost of this project went through the roof and some 2,300 residents are stuck with water bills—I don't think you'll believe how high they are. At that meeting some weeks ago in the Beeton arena, people got up, actually had their water bills in hand, and they were quoting \$600 for two months; that would be \$300 a month. It seemed to me the average was about \$150 to \$220 per month for water. It's unbelievable.

Again, I call upon the government, the government that, when it was running for office, pretended to have so much compassion, to have some understanding that the people of the village of Beeton cannot possibly pay the \$6.7 million for this project, cannot possibly pay their share of that \$6.7 million. It's incumbent upon the government to really show its compassion and to alleviate these people from these tremendous water bills.

The next issue I want to raise on behalf of rural Ontario involves a municipal drain. Last Friday the issue made the front page of a local newspaper called the Enterprise-Bulletin, which is one of the two newspapers in Collingwood. The headline is: "Angry Residents Slam Ministry's Drain 'Bungle': Public Meeting Held in Nottawa." I just want to quote from that. It says:

"The residents said they were frustrated at what some described as 'the inadequate answers and lack of knowledge of engineers and Ministry of Transportation

officials'; angry at how ministry's 'bungled' attempts to improve drainage along Highway 24 two years ago have worsened the drainage situation and caused flooding on several properties and fearful they will have to pay for a municipal drain that the Ministry of Transportation now wants installed to correct the problem."

I just want to quote from a local resident in the same article: "Ted Petter reported his basement was flooded this spring and caused a great deal of damage. The drain project being proposed by the ministry could only make things worse," he says. But "The ministry is adamant about wanting the municipal drain installed." Mr Kivell, who is a senior official of the Ministry of Transportation, "pointed out that the township"—that's the township of Nottawasaga—"has no alternative but to deal with the ministry's request. Any attempt to do otherwise could result in Nottawasaga township being hauled up in front of a provincial tribunal to explain itself."

That's from the local engineers explaining to the township, "You have no choice but to accept the petition for a municipal drain that's been forced upon the people of Nottawasaga township along Highway 24 by the Ministry of Transportation."

I spoke on October 6, I believe it was, to the Honourable Gilles Pouliot, the Minister of Transportation, about this issue. He assured me in his eloquent way—and you know how eloquent he can be in the House—that he was going to get to the bottom of this issue, that he would find out whether his ministry had really bungled this project. I believe the evidence we've submitted to date indicates that when they redeveloped Highway 24 some two years ago, they simply screwed up, they simply failed to properly engineer a drainage system under the highway which would drain some of the properties adjacent to the highway.

It's incumbent upon the ministry not to petition and impose a municipal drain for which the local ratepayers will have to pick up the tab. It's incumbent upon the Ministry of Transportation to get back to the project, to correct what it did wrong in the first place. The Minister of Transportation, just outside in the hallway, just outside of this Legislative chamber, absolutely assured me that he would get to the bottom of this and get back to me. He never did.

I even put it in writing. On October 7, I wrote him, I thought, a very thorough, a very good letter, explaining the pleas of local residents, indicating the tremendous frustration that of course is seen now in the local paper and the meeting that was held last week, frustration that a government that pretended to be compassionate, a government that would never ever do this sort of thing, impose projects on municipalities that ratepayers simply can't afford to pay for—goodness knows, we're taxed to the hilt now—that a government with such compassion would never allow the Ministry of Transportation to be heavy-handed in this manner and impose such a damning project on the area.

But the minister has never got back to me, so I'm kind of hoping that by raising it today in the opportunity I have, perhaps his bureaucrats who may be watching the television, his officials, and perhaps the minister himself—because he's not in the Legislature, I am sad to point

out—will take to heart the words he told me and will actually get to the bottom of this.

Simply, what we're asking for is that ministry engineers, rather than the current situation, which is that they've got their backs up—we've got an engineer down in London district office, the regional office, who refuses to admit that he could have possibly made a mistake when doing up the engineering drawings and specifications for the development of Highway 24.

We've got bureaucrats with their backs up. We've got a minister failing to respond. We've got a government that says it's compassionate, but by any stretch of the imagination, it has not demonstrated compassion in the past two years.

I ask the government, put your money where your mouth is. Get back to this project, straighten out a mistake that was clearly made by the ministry and don't impose a municipal drain on the residents of the north end of Nottawasaga township. It's unfair, it's uncalled for and it simply won't be tolerated. I can tell you, the local residents are banding together in large numbers to oppose this project and they're quite adamant about it.

1730

Another issue that affects rural Ontario is one that I have raised in this Legislature several times, by raising it in this Legislature and by writing both the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Education. It involves the construction of a new school. What we have in Nottawasaga township is what we call Nottawa public school. It's 73 years old. I'll read some quotes from some parents here. It in no way is fit for the purposes of educating students. We have cupboards that are being used as offices. We have a very old structure that has deteriorated to the point where it is indeed an extreme public safety hazard. Occupational health and safety standards in no way are being met in this building. I've called upon the government, again, to put its money where its mouth is, to put its priorities in order and help us to reconstruct a new school in Nottawasaga township.

We've been through all the hoops on this. We've played all the games with both the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education, who by the way can't seem to get their acts together. We have the Ministry of the Environment saying, "No more rural schools; the day of the rural school is over." The Minister of the Environment told me in this Legislature that actually that school shouldn't be allowed to go in rural Nottawasaga township. It should be just torn down and those kids should be bused to the town of Collingwood, several miles away, up Highway 24.

I guess the government doesn't care about rural Ontario. I guess the government has no appreciation for the good people and the rural way of life that is so widely enjoyed by so many individuals in my riding. It was a very sad day for me when the Minister of the Environment, a minister of the crown, would drive such a stake through the heart of rural Ontario. She's encouraging the Sewell commission and some of her other studies to come forward with recommendations that would really put an end

to schools in rural Ontario. It's absolutely crazy. That's the only way I can describe this.

I want to thank Roger Dey, who is a local resident of Nottawasaga township, Collingwood, for bringing forward much of the information I have and many of the concerns of the parents.

On March 20, 1990, again from the *Enterprise-Bulletin*, we see: "Parents Call for School in Nottawa: Group vows provincial action if request denied."

"About 20 anxious parents accompanied a delegation to the Simcoe County Board of Education here Tuesday night to ask about plans for a replacement school for the overcrowded Nottawa public school."

It goes on to say:

"Because the school does not have a gym, students are bused every week to use other school facilities in Collingwood at a cost of \$25,300 a year, said Ms Morrison. She added that over 200 hours of class time per year is taken out because of the bus trips. 'We feel that that is totally unacceptable,' said Ms Morrison."

It goes on to explain the overcrowded conditions and the state of disrepair of the 73-year-old building.

Joanne McKee, from RR 2, Collingwood, wrote to trustees back in April. She said:

"My children are requesting from us to transfer them to a school in Collingwood as they cannot understand and accept that they have to attend a school that is rundown, outdated, overcrowded, no facilities," and the list goes on and on, she says.

Mrs Isobel McKee, who is a very good friend of mine and a wonderful citizen of this province, wrote, back in May:

"We do not want our children bused to Collingwood. We like the small community we live in. Our school is very old and does not have an all-purpose room or gym. So our kids spend too much time on the bus."

The point of all of this is that the government is ignoring rural Ontario and schools in rural Ontario. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. As I said, we've been through all the hoops. The Ministry of the Environment says you can't have a school unless you put it on at least 54 acres of land, so we've backed off opposition to that point, and we've found a new site for the school on 54 acres of land, which is excessive.

I've talked to Ruth Grier personally. I've brought it up in the House many times. She refuses to look at the new technology out there to deal with liquid waste disposal. She refuses to deal with that. She refused to have her bureaucrats do any in-depth studies on what technology we could be using so that school boards like the Simcoe county public school board aren't required to have 54 or 60 acres of land every time they want to build or rebuild or redevelop a rural school.

We've said: "Okay, we can't outgreen the NDP on this one. If that's what the Minister of the Environment is telling the Minister of Education must be done, then fine. But we need the money to do it." On that point, the school is number one on the priority capital spending list for new schools of the Simcoe County Board of Education. That list of what projects would be funded by the Ministry of

Education and by this government should have been out last May or June. For some reason, unprecedented in this province, this government has not, to date, released the capital funding list for new schools or for replacement schools. Parents are left up in the air. Children, of course, are just totally run out of the equation. Rural life is just forgotten by this government and is, in fact, condemned by the Minister of the Environment. Local trustees are frustrated, the school board can't do the planning required etc, etc, etc.

My understanding, though—and it's to say there is some light at the end of the tunnel, I hope—is that Mr Silipo, the Minister of Education, has heard the pleas of the parents, has heard the pleas I've made on behalf of the residents of my riding, and it's rumoured that this Thursday the government will make public its capital projects list. Having seen the school, having listened to all of the very logical arguments concerning the need for a new school, I hope that of all the projects in the province, a Nottawa public school will be at the top of the new school capital project list this Thursday.

It's certainly my hope, because I am very worried, since the government hasn't released its list, that perhaps it's doing something funny with its funding and we may not have a positive announcement on Thursday. But I once again plead, because there's still time, with the Minister of Education, with this government to get its priorities in order and to fund those projects that the public really wants funded.

The public doesn't give a damn and doesn't want you to do a number of things you're doing. One glaring example comes to mind, and that is the some \$100 million this government's going to spend over the next few years, and has already started spending, on driving the private sector out of day care. It's a glaring example of where an ideological disposition, an NDP ideology, a socialist ideology takes precedence for this government over the real needs of the people of Ontario.

What we see in that case is that the government will spend, as I say, almost \$100 million, not creating any new day care spaces—it has set aside another \$30 million for that—but simply setting up so-called non-profit day care centres across the road from so-called profit or private day care centres and driving the private ones out of business, simply because this government believes that "profit" is a dirty word, that capitalism is something that shouldn't be discussed in our schools, and that somehow, in order to ensure that our children grow up with an NDP ideological socialist disposition, it needs to take control of our kids at a young age and make sure they're in government-run day cares.

1740

I want to tell the people of the province what the word "non-profit" means in this case, and it's a good example from my riding. We have a day care in one of the towns in my riding which a woman has run for the past nine years. She's had 25 kids in that day care. The most she's ever made in profit, which she calls her salary, as the owner of that day care is probably \$18,000 to \$20,000 a year, she tells me.

Under the new non-profit scheme, government comes in. She sets up a so-called non-profit day care centre—converts her private centre into a non-profit centre. She's going to make more money than she ever dreamed of. She's going to be able to pay herself some \$30,000 as executive director of the new non-profit day care centre. She can hire some assistant directors to help her out. The government's going to pay all the bills. The bottom line is there are still just 25 children in that facility. They're getting the same care. They're playing with the same toys. They're getting the same level of instruction that they did previously.

It's a ripoff for the taxpayer, this non-profit business, and it has been an attempt, and I think this government has been somewhat successful over the years, to change the vocabulary of the English language—and the French language, I guess—in the province of Ontario, where, as I say, "profit" is a dirty word, where the private sector, which we know creates the real jobs, is somehow to be discouraged and the government is to do everything for us, including taking over the minds of little children.

Before my time expires I want to talk about another issue that is very much on the minds of good people in my riding of Simcoe West. I have had, over my riding appointments each week, dozens of parents from both the north end of my riding, in the Collingwood area, and the south end, the Alliston-Tottenham area, representatives of both the Collingwood Community Living Association and the Community Living Association of South Simcoe. Parents meet with me and plead with me not to close their sheltered workshops for their children and young adults.

I've tried to make it clear that as an opposition member I'm not the one closing the sheltered workshops, that Marion Boyd, the Minister of Community and Social Services, and Bob Rae are closing the sheltered workshops. Why? Again because Marion Boyd, the minister, tells me in the estimates committee a couple of weeks ago that she doesn't agree that these workshops are beneficial to the clients they serve. She was very forceful in indicating—she went so far as to say that these workshops are abusive environments, that for children who have benefited for many, many years from the protection of a sheltered workshop like ARC Industries in Collingwood, and young adults, developmentally handicapped individuals who have benefited, somehow this government knows what's best. It knows what's best once again and is doing what we never thought we'd see in a democratic system. It's lecturing to my constituents and to the parents of developmentally handicapped individuals that "Big Brother knows what's best. These workshops are bad for you and we've got to close them."

We see the Minister of Community and Social Services taking some \$5 million out of the sheltered workshop money, closing down the triministry money that our community living associations depend on and transferring some of that money to the supports to employment program because somehow in this Utopian NDP society, this society that has no relation to reality or common sense, these developmentally handicapped individuals are going to be out in the workforce.

Goodness knows the unemployment rate is at staggering levels for all people in this province. I don't think we've yet developed a mechanism or a program that will see developmentally handicapped individuals fully employed in mainstream Ontario. While I think it's like arguing about motherhood—of course we all agree that developmentally handicapped individuals should have tremendous opportunities and that the state has a role in helping parents provide those opportunities—I don't think it's the role of the state to tell the people of my riding that government knows best and that these people are in abusive situations in terms of workshops when clearly that isn't the case. Clearly, the exact opposite is true and the parents truly know what's best for their young developmentally handicapped children and the young adults in those workshops.

It really is mind-boggling that the Minister of Community and Social Services and Bob Rae's government would allow itself once again, on another issue, to get captured by specific interest groups that say everybody should get the minimum wage; sheltered workshops have to go; they're abusive environments. Absolute bunk, and another indication that the government's been captured by—I could name them, but I won't—a couple of Toronto-based very vocal interest groups that are being pandered to by this government.

I ask the Minister of Community and Social Services and any member of government to come and tour the sheltered workshops in my riding, meet with the parents. We know we've seen—I think it's in Newmarket—where one of the workshops has been closed. The government's alternative has been to gather these developmentally handicapped individuals into a gymnasium now, every morning. Instead of going on a bus to the workshop and producing some wonderful products for consumption by the public and for other commercial enterprises and industries and doing meaningful, productive work, these young adults, developmentally handicapped individuals, are now meeting every morning in a gymnasium. They're being served cookies and orange juice and they're being babysat all day because the supports to employment program doesn't work.

Not everybody can sweep the floor at McDonald's and not everybody wants to sweep the floor at McDonald's. Sheltered workshops have to stay. They're a necessary part of our community. They're an indication of society's compassion and an indication of society's understanding of the needs of developmentally handicapped individuals. For the government to play a shell game, for the government to say it's transferring money from one budget to the other because the other one's going to be more beneficial, simply ignores the wishes of parents and of developmentally handicapped individuals in my riding.

I've carried on on a number of issues. I've tried to bring forward issues on behalf of my constituents in the time allotted with the sincere attempt to have the government listen, to have the government understand what real people are saying out there about what they want from their government, because government is here to respond to the needs of the people. As I said, we're not here, or

should not be here—any members who think their job is to lecture to people what's good for them have simply misunderstood why they should have run for office in the first place. If that's the attitude of Bob Rae and the NDP government, then they should be thrown out of office.

Unfortunately, a downside of the system is that you have to wait for elections, unless we can convince some of the backbenchers in the NDP, who privately will tell you they don't agree with Bob Rae and his cabinet ministers—unless we can convince them, along with the Liberals, to support a non-confidence motion, we're stuck with them. So facing reality and realizing we're stuck with them for another couple of years, I plead with them to listen to the people of my riding on these very important issues.

One very brief, final issue: It concerns all members of the Legislature. I wrote to the Honourable Karen Haslam on November 21, 1991, concerning TVOntario. It concerns the TV coverage in this Legislature. Most of my riding doesn't have cable TV. Even a number of people who live in the town of Alliston, including my own parents, can't afford the \$20 a month, the \$21 a month, which may not be much money to a cabinet minister making \$120,000 a year, but it's a lot of money to my unemployed father—can't afford cable, yet they have to wait in rural Ontario, in an area that's not serviced by cable TV, till 12:30 or 1 o'clock at night until question period is repeated. It's absolutely disgusting.

I've written the minister. She referred it to—I don't even know the chair of TVOntario any more. Some minion over there wrote me back a four-page letter with the greatest amount of bureaucratese I've ever seen in my life, not once answering any of my questions.

The point of my letter was that either you consider Parliament and democracy important or you don't, and if it's important, TVOntario should be televising this House and question period before 12:30 at night. My constituents aren't owls, they're people. Some of them even still have jobs and have to get up in the morning and work, and they can't stay up till 12:30, 1 o'clock.

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The other night question period was bumped to 1:10 because there was a home insulation program on. A home insulation program is more important than democracy and question period. Either you believe in this place, which is doubtful at the best of times, and you believe in democracy and you believe that our constituents, whether they can afford cable TV or not, have the right to see and hear what their elected representatives are doing on their behalf, or you don't. If you don't believe in it, tell me; don't send me four pages' worth of bureaucratese to tell me nothing.

I plead with the government. This is something very simple they could do. It should be at 6 o'clock when everybody can watch it, so that cable TV viewers and others are all treated equally in this province, whether they can afford a luxury service or not.

I want to end by simply thanking all members for listening attentively this afternoon. There wasn't a lot of heckling, as is often the case. Perhaps there's some hope that the environment here in the Legislative Assembly, in the chamber itself, is going to improve over the next little

while, because I think people are discouraged when we simply scream at each other.

So I, this afternoon, in a very reasoned way have brought five or six very important issues, I've explained the issues in depth, I've given my personal opinion, I've given the opinion of my constituents to the government, and I hope in all sincerity that the government will listen to the pleas of my constituents. The taxpayers know what priorities should be the government's priorities. I simply ask the government to kick out its own ideology, to abandon an ideological disposition and to listen to the real people of Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much for your participation. Questions and/or comments?

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I almost couldn't believe my ears when I heard the member for Simcoe West talk about 42 years of compassionate government under the Tories in this province. He talked about all the things that are going on. He also talked about Ontario Hydro and its situation. I'm sure there are many members in this House who were involved for years, when the Tory government was in power, about debates over transmission lines, about where they went. He's trying to say that their government was compassionate to those concerns. Well, we know that was not the case.

He also talked a little bit about managing issues, and he said he was listening to the member for Renfrew North. He talked about the number of hospital beds, but what he didn't talk about were comments from the hospital association meeting last week, where they were commenting on the fact that the number of job losses was significantly less than what they had predicted; as a matter of fact, I think they said very few. That has to do with leadership and management provided by the Minister of Health and this government. I think that point needs to be made quite clear.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): I want to compliment the member for Simcoe West on the sincerity and substance of his comments. I think that on an issue such as supply we have an opportunity in this House to talk about important matters of government, to talk about important matters for our riding and for the province. I think it is very sad to note that when a speaker such as the member for Simcoe West entered into debate in the way he has, the opposition members—I think I counted 13 of them—were reading Frank magazine, which is probably the intellectual level of the caucus.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I don't have any difficulty supporting the government's supply bill for those services that are needed by the public, nor do I have any difficulty, of course, in paying our civil service. But I have a great deal of difficulty with the decisions this Bob Rae socialist government has made in terms of funding. One of the areas that frankly breaks my heart is the people who cannot look after themselves. When we

deal with some of these areas, some of which the former speaker referred to—I'm looking at Community Living Mississauga, with a \$30,000 cut from its sheltered workshops. That translates into the loss of one staff person and adult day services for seven or eight developmentally disabled adults.

If there's any question here about whether this government cares about people, I just want to read one example of a family affected by the cuts made by this government.

"Mrs A was terminally ill and was hospitalized in August 1991. She died in the spring of 1992. During this, her son J was strongly affected and began to regress. Six weeks of camp were applied for in order to permit J as much social peer interaction and integration as possible. When only four weeks were approved, Mr A hired a babysitter. J's interactions with other children during the seven weeks he did not attend camp were minimal. There was not as much improvement in his social or communication skills as in previous summers, when he attended camp for eight weeks. Hiring the babysitter also placed considerable financial strain on Mr A."

This is not acceptable. This government is not looking after people who cannot look after themselves.

Mr Chiarelli: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I did want to correct the record. I indicated that opposition members were reading Frank magazine, but it was the government members; and it wasn't 13 of them, it was 14 of them reading Frank magazine during the debate.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): I listened with great interest to the member for Simcoe West. If I heard him correctly, he was suggesting that we solve some very new, very unique problems in the world of economics, certainly in the world of the economy of the province of Ontario, with some old solutions. I think what we have to do is look at exactly what's happening, not just in Ontario, not just in North America, but around the world. There's a lot of restructuring taking place, and what this restructuring means is that the cyclical changes within economies that we've watched, that have come and gone since the last Great Depression, have been corrected or adjusted in ways we've all come to accept—maybe more or less, I guess.

But let me make it clear to the member opposite that things have changed so dramatically that we have to do things differently. Some of these things we want to do differently are, in my opinion, the sorts of things that create within the members of the opposition all the comments and all the dialogue we hear from time to time. We have to respond to these changes in a way that changes the structure of how we manage this very difficult deficit. I want to say too that governments for many years have done things that we don't think are really good, but it's been a cumulative problem, a problem that we have to address very directly today.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Simcoe West has two minutes in response.

Mr Jim Wilson: I won't take two minutes, because we want to have a vote on interim supply and I don't want to be personally responsible for the government not being able to pay its bills. But I do sincerely hope that government members and ministers and the Premier will take to heart some of the suggestions I've made in my comments this afternoon and will truly listen to the people.

I'm not confident that they've understood everything I've said this afternoon, and that was indicated in the responses from the government members just a few moments ago. I think they may have missed the boat. On that note, I think we should proceed to a vote on interim supply.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Bradley: I guess there's no time left, is there? I wanted to speak for about two hours, and there's no time left.

The Acting Speaker: Before I recognize the clock, if there is no further debate, and there does not appear to be, Mr Laughren has moved notice of motion number 20 for interim supply.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Laughren's motion carry?

All those in favour of Mr Laughren's motion, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

I declare the motion carried.

It being 6 of the clock, this House will stand adjourned until tomorrow, November 3, at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1801.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
70	2843	1	38	hand, we have regulation through Bill 26 of these very

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Larry	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Eglinton Elgin	Poole, Dianne	L	
	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General: deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 3 November 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Tuesday 3 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 3 November 1992

The House met at 1331.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): In a recent letter published in the Windsor Star under the headline "Government Against Farming," major farm leaders vented their anger with the inaction of the NDP government. The letter reads:

"For in 1991, the foe was not only inclement weather...but also the government of Ontario.

"Prior to the start of the 1991 growing season, the government of Ontario changed the public crop insurance program...so as to substantially reduce the payout for 'insured' farmers.

"The income shortfall...caused by this governmental mistake is estimated at \$4 to \$5 million, most of this occurring in the counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton.

"To add insult" to injury, "the Ontario government took back over \$5 million of the \$35.5 million in assistance which it promised last October to Ontario farmers.

"In the 1992 Ontario budget, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food took a bigger cut than all but two ministries.

"Farming and agriculture are clearly not a priority with this government."

As I said earlier, this letter is signed by major farm leaders, including Roger George, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. It is important that the Premier and his government start listening to the concerns of farmers when the Ontario Federation of Agriculture presents its brief to cabinet later this week.

WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Today I would like to offer my congratulations to the community mental health clinic of Wellington and Dufferin counties, which has been serving these communities for 25 years.

As part of their celebrations, our local community mental health clinic has organized a program information exchange in my riding of Dufferin-Peel. The seminar will bring together over 60 social agencies and community organizations to discuss how each of them can provide the most coordinated and cooperative service to their clients.

I am proud to say that so many service-oriented groups are getting together to learn more about each other and how they can better serve their community. No more shuffling from group to group, no more, "It's not my job," only better service to the people of Wellington and Dufferin counties.

The Wellington-Dufferin Community Mental Health Clinic has taken a step towards better service to its clients and better cooperation between other agencies.

A stigma still exists surrounding mental health. However, people are learning. They are learning that one in five Canadians suffers from some degree of mental illness. They are learning that one in eight Canadians is hospitalized because of mental illness.

We all have to become more aware of how mental illness affects our families, friends and coworkers. We all have to learn what it means to suffer from a mental illness. We all have to understand the repercussions of mental illness and to avoid the stigmas and biases that we have because of a lack of understanding of mental illness.

I will be attending the community mental health clinic's 25th anniversary and its program exchange seminar on November 12. I urge the members of this House to make a commitment to educate themselves on mental illness and on how community services such as the mental health clinic serve our communities throughout Ontario.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Tony Rizzo (Oakwood): I rise to express my constituents' concern about the tax plan approved by Metro council last week. Next year, when legislation will be in place to implement the plan, many small business operators are going to have to re-evaluate and take a second look at the viability of their businesses in view of the fact that they will have to absorb extra tax increases of 10%, followed by another 10% in 1994 and by another 5% in 1995. During a period of extreme economic hardship, these types of decisions show a complete lack of sensitivity towards family-run business establishments.

Home owners and small businesses in my riding of Oakwood have been paying the highest property taxes in Metro Toronto for the last 40 years and from now on will still be paying more than they should and will still be supporting those who benefited for the same number of years. These are facts that cannot be denied or subject to misinterpretation.

I am asking the government to consider changes that would at least allow home owners and small business commercial operators to do renovations and improvements to their properties in excess of \$5,000 without having to be penalized by increasing their assessments and, therefore, their taxes. A change in that direction would give some relief to those who have been unfairly treated. At the same time, this would generate work, with a positive spinoff effect for the economy of our province.

STEPHENSON INQUEST

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): In June 1988, an 11-year-old boy in my community was killed by an incurable paedophile, a man who had a tremendous record of convictions for sexual assault. This lad was abducted from a shopping centre, was held for 24 hours, sexually assaulted over that period of time and strangled.

The parents have suffered through that agony. They've suffered through a trial. They are now suffering through an

inquest, and they're prepared to do that because they want to find out why this man was able to roam the streets.

There are at least four ministries that are funding legal counsel at the inquest. This inquest will last about two months. These people have retained a lawyer, and it's going to cost them in the neighbourhood of \$200,000. Surely this government has money to assist these people with their legal accounts, particularly as it has four lawyers there already. They seem to have money for all sorts of other things: \$1.2 million for Mr Holt, because they fired him; they also seem to have money for Dr Morgentaler. Surely the Stephensons deserve as much as that.

I call upon and urge the Premier and the Attorney General to assist these people in this very needed and necessary thing. The Stephensons are taking on this agony again to ensure that the safety of other 11-year-olds and younger children will not be compromised by the fact that some animal can roam Brampton and other cities throughout this province.

HOSPITAL FINANCING

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington is one of the province's most efficiently run hospitals. The Ministry of Health has required that all hospitals move to a goal of 850 patient-days per 1,000 population served. Joseph Brant is one of the most efficient hospitals in Ontario in this respect. For some time now they've been operating well below that, and their current ratio is 560 days per 1,000, which is one of the lowest ratios in the province.

They've reduced staffing hours without affecting patient care and have reshuffled duties between other members of the staff. They have closely scrutinized all current vacancies that occur to minimize staff hiring at the moment.

In the current year's operating budget, they had anticipated \$1.8 million in extra funding from the Ministry of Health. They had anticipated this coming from the equity portion of the hospital transition fund, which recognizes efficient hospitals. They have now been officially advised that they will be receiving \$187,000. This leaves a shortfall in their operating budget of \$1.5 million for the year.

Despite their efficiency and extra efforts at cutting their spending, they have now no choice except to cut both staff and service. This situation is intolerable, to say the least. I say to this government, the people of Burlington need a hospital. Please don't destroy it.

1340

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Oxford County Board of Education for its recent policy statement on spelling for elementary schools.

Many parents today worry about the education their children receive in public schools, especially in the basics of reading and writing. The Oxford county board recognized these concerns and took action to deliver a clear and concise message: Spelling counts.

The board's senior administration and consultant staff prepared a draft document outlining the teaching and

learning of spelling in our elementary schools. After receiving positive support and some constructive criticism from the schools in their system, the board released its final policy statement.

I want to point out that this policy is not a step backwards to the rote methods advocated by back-to-basics supporters, but neither is it an experiment in the classroom.

The board's policy statement is simple: We need a consistent approach in the delivery of our spelling programs; we need to ensure public confidence in our students' ability to spell, and we need to ensure that graduates of our programs have strong skills that will ensure their success in further learning and the world of work. The board advocates the best solution: the combination of a strong process-oriented reading, writing and oral whole-language classroom program and a well-constructed spelling program.

In a nutshell, the board expressed its support for the whole-language program which gives children a risk-free environment to build vocabularies, while at the same time setting expected outcomes for each program, course unit or lesson. But even more importantly, the board recognized the need to inform and involve parents in the process through open-house nights, newsletters or one-on-one meetings with teachers.

In closing, I want to reiterate my congratulations to the Oxford county board for its proactive and progressive action. All students, staff and parents will benefit from this forward-thinking policy.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Gilles E. Morin (Carleton East): I would like to address one of the Kirby commission's proposals: the annexation of the community of Manor Park by the city of Vanier. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the opposition of Manor Park residents to this proposal.

Manor Park has been a part of the city of Ottawa since 1949. It has grown with Ottawa and reflects the national capital's bilingual character. It would be clearly undemocratic to change its status without taking into consideration the wishes of its residents. The economic benefits that would result from the annexation have yet to be demonstrated. We are looking at the initial cost of implementation and significant tax increases for citizens. Whether in the short or long term, this proposal is not in the best interests of the residents of Manor Park.

I would like to add that other communities, such as the city of Gloucester and the municipality of Rockcliffe, also feel threatened with dissolution and integration.

How can the Minister of Housing, who represented the riding of Carleton East from 1975 to 1981, support these initiatives? She knows these communities. She is familiar with Manor Park's strong and exemplary community spirit. Why is she not defending the real interests of the residents of Manor Park?

Let this be clear to the Minister of Municipal Affairs: Residents of Manor Park are against the proposal for annexation and they will not give up their right for their community. Should annexation be implemented, there will be real opposition.

CORPORATION FILING PROGRAM

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): My constituents are outraged at the newest tax grab by this money-hungry government: the filing program for incorporated businesses and non-profit corporations. Suddenly, by regulation, not legislation, all corporations in Ontario must pay an additional \$50 filing fee. This new fee is not to pay for new services; it is just a new way to squeeze more money from our businesses here in Ontario. This is for the privilege of filing information the government already has.

Many of my constituents operate several small companies, and this \$50 filing fee for each company can represent a sizeable sum. As businesses struggle to survive through the recession, this government continues to make it as difficult as possible.

There is no partnership with business. There is no concern about keeping jobs and investment in this province so that prosperity can return. There are only brain-storming sessions on new ways to take money out of the pockets of the citizens and new regulations that force more money into government.

This government is anti-business. With Bill 40 and the latest tax grab they are sending the message: Ontario is not a friendly place in which to do business.

I say to the Premier, the voters' booth will not be a friendly place for the NDP in the next election, when this government will finally be forced to listen to what the people have to say.

WAVELL VILLAGE

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I want to take this opportunity to tell the House about Wavell Village, a non-profit housing community in my riding.

Wavell Village recently won the City of London Urban Design Award for residential housing. I believe the architect, Malhotra Nicholson Architects of London; Bill Code, the chairperson of the O'Dell Jalna development committee, O'Dell committee members and the Wavell Village residents deserve hearty congratulations.

They have created a living space that is attractive and meets the needs of the people who reside there. Most of the Wavell units look out over grassed areas and walkways. Children's play areas are away from parking areas and, even more importantly, are visible and therefore safe.

The homes of Wavell Village opened in September 1991 and are part of the revitalization of London neighbourhoods, part of the housing policy that is an essential component in this government's plan to provide decent, affordable housing. Such housing ultimately is the foundation of healthy, participatory communities that will contribute most positively to Ontario's future. Congratulations to all who have made Wavell Village a neighbourhood and an award-winning project.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY
AND RESPONSES

CORPS D'ÉLITE AWARDS

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): We have five distinguished visitors to the Legislature today. They are the recipients of the province's highest

honour in recreation, the Corps d'élite Ontario Awards. Please join me in welcoming Hartland Finley of Ottawa, John Gates of Kincardine, John Macintyre of Etobicoke, Hugh Robertson of Whitby, and Mary Whittam of Etobicoke. In a few minutes, I will escort them to the Lieutenant Governor's suite, where they will receive the awards in a ceremony presided over by His Honour Henry Jackman.

The Corps d'élite awards honour outstanding recreation volunteers and professionals. Each of these individuals has shown exceptional leadership, creativity and commitment in helping Ontario recreation to better serve the needs of all citizens. In these hard economic times, when our recreation system has come under great pressure to do better with less, their contribution is even more meaningful. They are not alone. By recognizing these five people, we celebrate all recreation volunteers in this province. Their work enriches the lives of people of all ages and abilities across Ontario.

Mr Speaker, I would ask you and the honourable members to join with me now in showing our appreciation of all recreation volunteers by recognizing Hartland Finley, John Gates, John Macintyre, Hugh Robertson and Mary Whittam.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): May I extend my congratulations to all five, but particularly to Mr Gates, who hails from Kincardine in the great riding of Bruce. I know from my experience with John in the meetings that he has attended and the hours that he has put in that all five probably have dedicated a considerable amount of personal time and energy to expanding on their own belief in recreation as a source of continuing and abiding interest and health for the people on whose behalf they have worked.

I would say that the volunteer sector and the people who go through all this work have been really the backbone of recreation for so many years in this province. There are people out there who have not been recognized the way they should have been in a timely fashion, and it is nice to see us from time to time making a commitment to dedicate ourselves to say thank you to people who have extended their own persons beyond what I think is normally required of individuals. On that note alone, I want to say congratulations to all of you and again, as I say, particularly to John Gates.

There's no question, as we carry on through these difficult times, that the recognitions which we hand out are so few and far between for people like these and others who are not officially recognized that we are wearing thin the long-standing service that these people have been giving, that we are causing difficulties with seeing the light at the end of the tunnel for people who have dedicated themselves selflessly to ensuring that there is good planning at the basis of recreation in our local communities.

It seems to me that small rewards—as this is; there isn't anything in this so much from a monetary fashion, but there is from the point of prestige for these people—are the very least we can do. I think at a time like this as well, though there's a very small hint of what is to come here for our province in the next few months and in the next budgetary year, there are going to be more difficult

times. It will only be on the basis of the very strong planning that has been done by people like these whom we honour today that we will be able to hold a number of our recreation programs together. The stresses are real, the tempers sometimes short at the meetings.

1350

In fact, I can remember being at a Lake Huron zone meeting at the CAW centre in Port Elgin where the entire region was sitting down to plan what it should do next. I, in my few remarks, had mentioned that one of the first places where pressure is felt in the local municipalities, indeed even around the cabinet table, I suspect, at budgetary time is in the recreation department, that it is a real problem to stay the course, to be dedicated, to be promoting programs and to be promoting physical activity in the very many forms you do in a way which will gain a lot of public sentiment.

I think if we can provide some kind of direction to help the minister, as he nods his agreement here, but also to help the women and men who are honoured today, it would be very helpful indeed.

I must say one final point. I was the Minister of Health for a few short years and enjoyed it—

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Very, very short. Too short.

Mr Elston: Yes, it was very good. But one of the things I recognized more than any other was that the formality of our health system is helped so much by the informality of the volunteer network that helps people to get out and help themselves to better health. Recreation in all forms—it doesn't have to be the sort of elite forms of international participation, but all those programs at the local level—is so important in making sure that men and women can retain their physical health to ensure that they develop more stamina to carry on with the more difficult days they face in economic times like this.

I just want to say to the five who are honoured, thank heaven for you and many more like you. We would be in terrible shape, literally and figuratively, without you.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm very pleased to join with the minister and the member for Bruce, on behalf of all my colleagues in the Ontario PC caucus, to extend our wholehearted congratulations to our five recipients of the Corps d'élite Ontario Awards. It's a tremendous award. It's a tremendous opportunity, I think, for this Legislature and all members to recognize the importance these people have provided in terms of recreational leadership and volunteerism in our communities.

We all know, as leaders in our own communities, how important volunteerism is, and that indeed it is the backbone of any thriving and living community in Ontario. But I also want to point out—and I think it's appropriate at this point in the history of Ontario and of Canada, when politicians have spent a lot of money and a lot of time running around, trying to figure out what good citizenship is all about—that we need to look no further than the gallery today, where we have five very fine examples of good citizenship.

Perhaps the best definition of good citizenship that I've ever heard is not only exemplified in the people we are honouring today; it's best summed up in the sentence that, if at the end of the day the people you work with, the communities you live in and the people you encounter every day are better for the very fact that you are there, then you know you've embraced good citizenship that day.

Today, we take great pleasure in honouring and congratulating once again five recipients of the Corps d'élite Ontario Awards, which are indeed the highest awards possible in the field of recreation volunteerism in the province.

I also want to just point out, as the member for Bruce did, that today we have special thoughts for Mr John Gates because, Mr Speaker, he is a cousin of Debbie Hutton, who, as you know, is the assistant to our House leader. So we've heard great stories about Mr Gates, and we're very pleased to congratulate all of the recipients of the award.

I know that my colleague the member for Etobicoke West would also like to say a few words, when he gets in his seat here, about the recipients from Etobicoke.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Further responses?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I would just like to say that you will learn when you come to the city of Etobicoke that volunteers are a very healthy part of our community, and this is a clear indication, that two Etobians have come down to Queen's Park. I certainly want to congratulate them. It shows leadership from our community and I think that they deserve to be acknowledged as they are today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

SALARY OF ONTARIO HYDRO CHAIR

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question is for the Premier. Mr Premier, my question concerns your second appointment to the chairmanship and chief executive officer's job at Ontario Hydro, Mr Maurice Strong. Some months ago, I believe it was almost a year ago, when Mr Eliesen kindly volunteered to take a \$160,000 annual pay cut, you observed at that time, and I quote your words: "I think everyone has an obligation to look at restraint as an objective, as a standard we should be aiming at. We are endeavouring to exercise restraint wherever we can."

In making calls to the United Nations staff, I've been told that the current rate of pay for an undersecretary general at the United Nations currently ranges between \$117,000 and \$125,000 annually. If that were the rate of pay that Mr Strong were receiving as an undersecretary general at the United Nations, and I have to believe that it was, can the Premier indicate how it is that Mr Strong would come to his new responsibilities at a salary that is almost three times the rate of pay that is currently being offered to those men and women who serve in that capacity as undersecretary general at the United Nations?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, I want to say to the member that Maurice Strong is a person of enormous ability and of enormous integrity. I am going to stand in my place

here today and say to the honourable member that he knows full well that the chief executive position at Ontario Hydro when he was a member of the Peterson cabinet paid over \$500,000 in terms of the salary that was available. He knows that perfectly well.

I can tell the honourable member that I do not know what salary Mr Strong received from the United Nations, if any—if any, I would say to the honourable member—because Mr Strong has a record of doing a great deal of his public service work pro bono.

This is a full-time chief executive position with respect to a corporation which, under the leadership of the previous government, of which the honourable member for Renfrew North was a member, racked up a \$10-billion overflow on the construction of Darlington; a \$10-billion overflow under the leadership of that government. The Liberal Party has a nerve even mentioning the word “restraint” when it talks about Ontario Hydro. They have absolutely no ground upon which to stand when it comes to either Mr Strong—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —or their own record with regard to Ontario Hydro, which was a public disgrace.

1400

Mr Conway: In my first question I took some effort to quote the Premier’s comment and commitment to restraint a year ago when we were last talking about the difficulty that his first appointment, Mr Eliesen, encountered with his rather extravagant salary demands at Ontario Hydro. At that time a year ago, Mr Rae said, “I think everyone has an obligation to look at restraint as an objective, as a standard we should all be aiming at.”

My question remains. I want to ask the Premier this: Given his commitment a year ago to restraint, I say again that he has offered his good friend Mr Maurice Strong \$425,000 a year. I simply ask again because the facts are clear that Mr Strong’s last job was as an undersecretary general at the United Nations. The current rate of pay there is in the neighbourhood of \$125,000 US annually, and \$425,000 represents an almost threefold increase. Can the Premier justify to the hard-pressed Ontario taxpayers and the hard-pressed Ontario ratepayers how it is he feels that someone who he says is prepared to offer a lot of his services pro bono—

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): He’s working full time now.

Mr Conway: If Mr Strong has a reputation of offering his services for free—

The Speaker: Would the member conclude his supplementary, please.

Mr Conway: —can the Premier indicate how it is that in this time of recession and restraint he felt it necessary to offer Mr Strong \$425,000 annually?

Hon Mr Rae: I want to say to the honourable member, in case he doesn’t remember, because his leader was the former minister responsible for Ontario Hydro, that under the leadership of the Liberal government, under the

urging of the member for Renfrew—whom I can remember in this House for 10 years calling on Ontario Hydro to build bigger and bigger megaprojects at bigger and bigger cost—let me remind the honourable member that under his government, under the leadership of the party of which he was a member—and he is still a member—under the Liberal Party record with respect to Ontario Hydro, Ontario Hydro now has a deficit of \$32 billion and ticking.

That’s why over 20,000 employees and an asset base of \$40 billion—it is the largest corporation in Canada with respect to its asset base, and you go out and look at the salaries that are being paid in the private sector, the skills and the talents that we need to attract to deal with an intractable problem. It is impossible to take the honourable member seriously with respect to his question.

Mr Conway: The Premier’s revisionist history would make Comrade Andropov blush. The Premier’s revisionist history would make Comrade Brezhnev blush. Let me say as a final question—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Order.

Mr Conway: I can’t call him what the facts would suggest I should call him.

Interjections.

The Speaker: While a discussion of history excites people, perhaps a bit of restraint would allow the member for Renfrew North to place his final supplementary.

Mr Conway: A final question to the overly sensitive, very delicate, Japan-bound Premier. We all know this: Robin Sears won’t be asking any of these kinds of difficult, embarrassing questions.

My final question is this, Mr Speaker, to my friend the leader of the government: Can the leader of the government confirm that, weeks after Mr Strong had agreed to become the chairman and chief executive officer of Ontario Hydro, the Hydro board of his creation issued an untendered contract in the amount of \$100,000 to the American firm Stuart Spencer to undertake a search for a new chairman and CEO at Ontario Hydro? An untendered \$100,000 contract to an American, multinational, headhunting firm named Stuart Spencer, weeks after the government and/or its agents had brought Mr Strong on board.

Hon Mr Rae: Let me first of all say that the only person who would be embarrassed by the kinds of questions that are being asked today by the member for Renfrew North is the member for Renfrew North himself. No one else is embarrassed by that, let me tell you. No one else is embarrassed.

With respect to Mr Strong, the only thing I can say to the member with respect to the date of his acceptance of the offer is that Mr Strong did not finally accept and was not ultimately persuaded by me to accept this appointment until about two days before it was publicly announced.

ONTARIO HYDRO PRESIDENT

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): My question is for the Premier as well. Mr Premier, does the Minister of Energy report to you?

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the Premier wish to respond?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I would say to the honourable member that, among others, the Minister of Energy reports to me; he also reports to the honourable member.

Mr McGuinty: Mr Premier, your Minister of Energy was intimately involved in the firing of Al Holt. The facts there are indisputable.

Yesterday when we raised Al Holt's \$1.2-million severance package with the minister, he said outside the doors of this chamber that he was "not interested."

Let me tell you, Mr Premier, we on this side of the House are somewhat interested in this matter, and I venture to say that the people of this province—

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Five years in government.

The Speaker: The member for Cochrane South.

Mr McGuinty: —the same people whose hydro rates were increasing 30% over three years, the same people who are paying \$425,000 a year for your new chairman, the same people who paid \$567,237 recently for boardroom renovations at Hydro—these same people are very interested in learning more about this parting gift to Mr Holt.

We have the undeniable right to know how much we're paying Mr Holt in order to bring about his quiet departure, complete with gag order. Mr Premier, how much is Al Holt's forced departure going to cost us?

Hon Mr Rae: Since there was such a long preamble to the question, let me just say to the honourable member that when he speaks to his constituents in Ottawa South about the rise in hydro rates, perhaps he will explain to them that it was the government of the party of which he's a member that racked up a \$10-billion overflow on the construction of Darlington.

This is the fact that the Liberal Party never wants to admit. It was supposed to cost \$3.8 billion. We're the only party that stood in the Legislature when we were sitting over there and called on the government not to proceed. The Tories decided to go ahead; the Liberals confirmed it. It cost \$10 billion more than it was supposed to cost. That's what's causing the problem in hydro rates. Everybody in Ontario knows it. Why doesn't the Liberal party wake up and recognize that's the problem with Hydro? That's the fact we have to deal with; that's why the team is being changed at Ontario Hydro.

Mr McGuinty: Mr Speaker, I'm sure you can understand my frustration, because even when we can get the Premier to answer a question, he does not specifically respond to the question being asked.

Mr Premier, yesterday the minister said that Mr Holt's severance was negotiated by the Hydro board. The minister said he wasn't aware of the details of the severance, and we find this particularly interesting, because as you know, his deputy minister, George Davies, sits on the

board of directors, and in fact he has now assumed the position of acting chair and CEO of Ontario Hydro.

Certainly Mr Davies, in his special capacities at Hydro, would be able to tell the minister about Mr Holt's severance package. Will the Premier order his minister to ask Mr Davies, his very own deputy, to tell him all about the severance package, and if not, why not?

1410

Hon Mr Rae: I understand that some of these issues are going to be discussed at the committee on November 16 and I'm sure the honourable member and others will be there as well. But I just want to come back to the honourable member and just say to him, with respect to the issue at Ontario Hydro, if he thinks that we were simply going to carry on with the policies of former governments, which led us into a \$32-billion debt at Ontario Hydro, a whacking great mortgage that we're having to pay for, businesses are having to pay for, consumers are having to pay for day after day, if you think we're going to sit back and do nothing about that and not try to seek to make some major changes, which we've been making for the past two years, then I disagree thoroughly with the honourable member.

I will debate the issue of Hydro in this House, across the province and remind people of the mess created by the Liberals and the Tories, their fascination for megaprojects literally out of control, and a \$10-billion overflow. Explain that to the people of the province and how the heck you expect consumers to put up with that. That's your issue. That's what you have to be tagged with.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I have a question for the Premier. Premier, yesterday you told this House what a wonderful job you thought your Solicitor General was doing in managing the dispute with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association. I believe the last time the Solicitor General brought his unique skills to bear in this situation was at his meeting last Friday with the Police Association of Ontario.

Mr Premier, the Police Association of Ontario has now responded by joining the Metro job action. It has responded now by adding 21,000 officers all across Ontario to the ranks of this protest against your government. Surely you would at least agree—not with everything I say, I know that—that the situation is getting out of hand.

Given that much of the police action has nothing to do with the Solicitor General and it really has very little to do with filling out reports—as you've heard the police say, that's not the issue; in fact, Premier, much of the issue has to do with you. It has to do with you, with your office, it has to do with your parliamentary assistant, it has to do with actions that you have taken, not the Solicitor General—given that reality, would you not agree that it is irresponsible of you to head off to Asia two days from now without dealing with this issue as is your responsibility, as is your duty as Premier of this province? Will you, therefore, put an end to what's going on, to this escalation, to this situation getting out of control? Will you today fulfil your responsibility and meet with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'm going to refer this question to the Solicitor General.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): As I've indicated to the House earlier, the development of this regulation started in the Ministry of the Solicitor General and there shall it be concluded.

We met last Friday with Bob Morrison, the president of the Police Association of Ontario, and his executive. It was a very fruitful meeting and a meeting that resulted in an agreement to continue to meet.

Since that time, the PAO has met with its representatives from across this province, and I, for one, am quite heartened by the position that this association has taken. While on the one hand it has said that it continues to support the action of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association, which comes as no surprise, and it has indicated to its other associate members that if they wish to follow a similar action they may do so—that of donning ball caps and blue ribbons—also out of that meeting came the expression that it was not recommended that there be any escalation in this circumstance.

Mr Morrison is quoted as saying that he is not particularly concerned with the regulation with respect to drawing and in terms of the paperwork. He's quoted in the *Toronto Sun* as saying, "That's nothing." While Mr Morrison and the PAO and others have ongoing concerns, I believe that we at our subsequent meetings will do very well and very nicely, thank you, towards moving to a resolution of this conflict.

Mr Harris: By way of supplementary to the Solicitor General, now, the Solicitor General and I and Mr Morrison and everybody agrees the issue is not filling out reports, as you have just said; we agree with that. Let's get down to what the issue is, because as a result of your meeting, we now have 80% to 90% of the police officers in the province participating in a job action against you, against your government and particularly against the Premier of the province of Ontario. Now, we know that.

Mr Solicitor General, quoting the *Toronto Sun*, as you've quoted, this job action goes back beyond the filling out of reports on drawing weapons. It goes to the distrust of your Premier, to the distrust of what the reports are going to be used for. It goes to the distrust of the motives.

The article in the *Toronto Sun* points out that the real beginnings of the job action began in fact many months before, when your Premier scrapped a joint committee of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and the commission that was working on use-of-force regulations, unilaterally scrapped that and replaced it with a new committee made up and dominated by groups that were hostile to and anti the police. In fact, that is the story that came out of the *Toronto Sun* article that you are quoting from today, and because you have quoted from it I will quote from it as well.

Can you tell me, Mr Solicitor General, why you or—as I suspect, it wasn't you—why your Premier or the Premier's office scrapped a year and a half of consultations, scrapped that committee that was acceptable—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the leader complete his supplementary, please.

Mr Harris: —to the police and replaced it with a committee that was stacked against the police? Can you tell me why that action was taken?

Hon Mr Pilkey: The first thing is that I want to correct the leader of the third party in his unfortunate reference to the Premier, where he suggested the Premier scrapped this consultation committee. Mr Speaker, so that I will not abridge the rules of the House, is it okay for me to simply say that he was incorrect? Would that be all right? I'd like to use a stronger word but I think you wouldn't allow me to do it. The contention is in error. It's wrong. It has no factual basis. It just plain isn't the case.

The consultations were held over many months with the police stakeholder groups. It was only after that, on a subsequent occasion, that there were other members of the public who were allowed to have their say and their input into this particular process.

It's not up to me to speak for him, but I know the Premier of this province supports police officers in this province and understands clearly the difficult job they have to do, as do I. As a result of those concerns we, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General, are continuing to enhance police training and other vehicles to ensure that we have one of the finest and continue to have one of the finest police—

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Pilkey: —support mechanisms in this province and ahead of any other in the Dominion of Canada.

Mr Harris: Let me quote from the last part of the article in the *Toronto Sun*, "So, in one arbitrary, telling sweep, did the Bob Rae government simultaneously turn its back on the police and embrace their most vicious critics."

Now, Mr Minister, either you or the Premier or the now top civil servant in the province, David Agnew, scrapped this committee that had been working for a year and a half, because scrapped it was and you know it was. It was replaced with a committee stacked against the police and you know that.

I say to you, Solicitor General, that I believe it is reasonable that if your Premier had allowed the original committee to do its job, you would not have found yourself in the mess you're in today, with both sides now totally distrusting each other, that in fact the use-of-force issue may have been resolved today if the balanced committee had been allowed to run its course, and quite frankly, a whole bunch of other things wouldn't have happened. The so-called Black Action Defence Committee, which became a key part of the new committee you set up, would never have had a platform in the first place to use in calling the police racist.

Mr Solicitor General, given that it was your Premier who scrapped this committee, or the Premier's office, given that it was your Premier—

The Speaker: Would the leader of the third party place his supplementary, please.

Mr Harris: —who replaced this committee with one stacked against police, given that this is the real issue why the police distrust your Premier, do you not agree with me that it is irresponsible for your Premier to run away for 16 days and leave this mess in your hands when it wasn't your fault in the first place?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I don't agree with the leader of the third party at all. The Premier of this province had nothing to do with respect to the consultative committee that surrounded this particular issue; I did, and my ministry did. I'm indicating that the police stakeholders had all kinds of input. It was valuable input. It was proper input. It was input that we wanted, that we sought and that we received.

Surely, the member opposite wouldn't deny us the opportunity, albeit in this case only on one-and-a-half days of consultation, to hear from the general public or from representatives of a group that had an interest in this particular regulation, because that's the extent of the interface that they had.

1420

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I have a question for the Premier. Mr Premier, you indicated in the weekend press that cabinet would be looking at the issue of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto. In fact, Saturday's *Globe and Mail* reported that your cabinet "will act as a court of final appeal on the controversial issue." Premier, is it your intention to have cabinet make this decision without giving the rest of the Legislature an opportunity to participate in this process?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): As much as I'd like to answer this question, I think I'll refer it to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Oh, come on. He's not making the decision. Who wants to hear from this guy?

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I don't know whether to try to answer the question or not. One person asked the question and another member says I can't answer it.

It's my understanding, and I think the House leader for the third party knows this, that if we are to proceed with the market value assessment proposal that has been put together by Metro and Metro's chair, Alan Tonks, if we're to implement that plan, there would be legislation facilitating that; that's the role. We'd have to amend the Metro Toronto act to give it the same power that every other region and every other municipality in the province has without having to change legislation.

Mr Eves: The *Globe* article quotes the Premier as saying, and I wouldn't want to misquote him, "We live in an open society where people make their case and I'm sure the people who have been making their case before will make it again."

Minister, would you not agree that these hearings should start today? How are we going to get this passed through the Legislature by December 10 if these hearings don't start immediately? We can't deal with this issue behind the closed doors of the Cabinet Office.

Hon Mr Cooke: I think it's only fair to point out that Metro council made its decision last Thursday. They approved the Metro plan last Thursday.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Why don't you tell them that? They can't possibly get the legislation by December 10.

The Speaker: Order, the member for York Centre.

Hon Mr Rae: We haven't heard that yet. Are you the House leader now?

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Sorbara: I am a member here.

Hon Mr Rae: I'm trying to clear up your role within your caucus; that's all.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon Mr Cooke: The Metro plan just came. It was just approved by Metro council last Thursday. That decision has to be communicated to us in a request to approve legislation to give Metro the same powers that every other region and every other municipality in the province already has without having to bring it to the Ontario Legislature.

The cabinet will act as quickly as possible and a decision on government policy will be announced as quickly as possible, and then the Legislature will have to debate the legislation, but I think it should be made very clear that we will not be debating Metro's plan; we will be debating legislation to give Metropolitan council the same power that every other region and every other municipality in Ontario already has.

Mr Eves: The very simple fact of the matter is that you know that next week will be constituency week and that the Legislature and the committees of the Legislature will not be sitting. After that, because you have unilaterally shortened the timetable and the calendar around here to December 10, we'll have four weeks to deal with this very important issue.

That is not a lot of time to deal with Metro Toronto's plan. The plan has been changed several times. There have been dozens of changes since the original hearings before Metro Toronto council. Why won't you agree to start public hearings on this today so we can deal with this issue the way it should be dealt with—public hearings in a committee of this Legislature and dealt with on the floor of this Legislature—before we adjourn on December 10? What do you have against that?

Hon Mr Cooke: What I will do as Minister of Municipal Affairs is talk to our House leader and the three of you should talk about it tomorrow. You can probably come up with a solution on how to deal with this. The three House leaders should talk about the procedure on this tomorrow.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the Premier as well.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I hope he doesn't dodge this one.

Mr Mahoney: I don't think he can. The minister he might dodge it to isn't here, but we'll see.

Last Thursday, Premier, your government introduced a new lottery. You might recognize it; it's the one Don Cherry is promoting on television. The Sport Select Pro-Line lottery allows people to place a bet at their corner store, instead of calling their bookie, on professional hockey games, American football and the CFL.

This lottery apparently has been a hit in the Metro area, with over 32,000 bets placed on the first day alone. In fact, as a result, people are now referring to you, sir, as Bookie Bob, among other things.

Premier, my question is not so much about the lottery, which I understand will raise an additional \$45 million or \$40 million for charity—are they running around looking for the minister so you can duck this one too? Well, let's see if he comes.

My question is something I'm sure you as a family man would be concerned about and it concerns the attractiveness and the accessibility to our young people. There is no law prohibiting the sale of lottery tickets to minors. There is an Ontario Lottery Corp policy, but there is no law. There is no penalty for retailers who ignore that policy and subsequently sell to minors.

Premier, with one ingenious stroke, you've made legalized gambling available to our kids in this province. Kids are lining up at Becker's and Mac's to gamble their lunch money. Is there no end to this government's search for revenue? Premier, do you agree with kids betting legally on sporting matches and, if not, what are you going to do about it?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Despite the long anticipated preamble to the question, I take the question seriously. He has a suggestion, I take it, which is that the sale of any form of lottery tickets should be banned to minors. Is that the suggestion he's making on behalf of his caucus? If that's the suggestion that's being made on behalf of the caucus, obviously that's something we would all want to consider.

Mr Mahoney: This was brought to my attention this weekend. A family in my riding found that their son had lost \$25 as a result of buying tickets at their corner store. The parents stormed into that store, quite upset, of course, filed a complaint and were told by the operator that while it's not illegal to sell these tickets to minors, the store would stop doing it as a gesture in the community.

We have an example of a 10-year-old girl at a kiosk in a mall this weekend who was allowed to walk right up and place her bet. We have a 13-year-old boy and his brother who dropped \$50 on two hockey games and Monday night football. This is extremely serious, with this kind of accessibility. It's getting out of hand.

Now, this particular lottery has only been launched in the Metro area at the present time. What I'm asking the

Premier to do is give us his personal assurance, notwithstanding the fact that he'll be leaving the country for a while and going off to the Orient, that while he's gone he will instruct the minister to draft legislation, to bring in a law, to issue regulations—to do whatever it takes to prohibit minors in this province from gambling on sporting events through their corner store. Premier, will you give us that undertaking today?

Hon Mr Rae: I say to the honourable member that I don't know exactly what the legal situation is with respect to the lottery under, for example, the 649 or all the other various lotteries. I don't know what the law is. I know this is a confession that leaders are not supposed to make, but I would make it to him. I don't have any briefing material saying, "Premier, be prepared for a question with respect to lottery tickets and the sale to minors." I will say to the member in good faith that the examples he's—I mean, I have three kids. We all can understand on a human level the kind of issue he's raising, and we'll have to look at what would be involved in dealing with it. I want to say to the honourable member that I take his question seriously and I also take his acronym with a grain of salt.

1430

ONTARIO HYDRO PRESIDENT

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): My question is for the Minister of Energy. Yesterday, when asked by reporters if he thought that a \$1.2-million severance was a fair settlement for Mr Holt, the minister said he had no idea, that he was not interested in the severance and that he liked being in the dark. These were the comments of the Minister of Energy to the people of Ontario: He wasn't interested, he had no ideas and he liked being in the dark.

Mr Minister, you're responsible to the people of Ontario and to its ratepayers. It is your responsibility to be interested, it is your responsibility to have ideas and it is your responsibility to get out of the dark.

You had a very effective input into the removing of Mr Holt. You and Mr Eliesen decided he must go. Your letter regarding Mr Holt to Mr Eliesen was a directive to the board. While the concentration of business and everyone else is to cut costs for business as an incentive to the province of Ontario, how can you justify, Mr Minister, a \$1.2-million retirement package and then turn around and give \$425,000 for a replacement?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): The member for Lanark-Renfrew has an extremely short memory. I help him recall Bill 118, which he was very vocal about when we were debating that bill here in the House and all through the committee hearings. He was very vocal about his concern that this government would stick its nose too far into the operations of Ontario Hydro.

The Power Corporation Act vests the authority around the president—salary, severance and so on—with the board of Ontario Hydro. The board of Ontario Hydro gave the authority to discuss retirement with the president, and the chair and the president reached a mutual agreement.

It's my understanding that Mr Holt not only arrived at a mutually acceptable retirement agreement with Hydro, but that that agreement is a confidential agreement that

falls under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Charlton: By law, I don't have the right to know what the content of that agreement is, and the member, I'd think, would—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the minister take his seat, please? I ask the member for Etobicoke West to please come to order.

Had the minister concluded his response? The member for Lanark-Renfrew with supplementary.

Mr Jordan: Based on that response from the minister, I can only assume that the minister really does like to remain in the dark. The minister has already denied having had any involvement with the firing of Al Holt, while sources on the board contend that he directed that action. Now the minister claims he has no responsibility for how much money is spent on severance packages. Mr Minister, for the sake of Ontario Hydro ratepayers, who will have to pay for these severances, can you tell us who is accountable to the people of Ontario Hydro?

Hon Mr Charlton: The member well knows that Ontario Hydro is accountable to the government and has been ever since its creation.

As the Premier said earlier, the Conservative government for 42 years, and subsequently the Liberals for five years, by their lack of direction of Ontario Hydro helped us to run up a \$32-billion capital debt; helped us to have a \$10-billion overrun at Darlington; put us in a mess that is going to be very difficult for this government and Hydro to work out of. This government is taking the actions required to ensure that the management strategies in Ontario Hydro are dramatically changed so we never get ourselves into this kind of mess again.

SEWAGE TREATMENT

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, but I'll put it to the Premier. The Premier may refer it to the Minister of the Environment, if she's here.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Kormos: A couple of weeks ago the Minister of the Environment very graciously met with Mayor Longo from Thorold and some of his staff about the crisis around Beaverdams and the sewer project. This is an incident that goes back some five, six or seven years now, because the Ministry of the Environment had targeted Beaverdams as an area that needed sewer installations. There was a serious health problem. Lake Gibson, which the neighbourhood is immediately adjacent to, because of the seepage from the septic tanks and inadequate septic systems is becoming full of—well, it's becoming full of faeces.

The Minister of the Environment graciously met with the mayor to explain that no, notwithstanding that thousands and thousands and thousands of provincial taxpayers' dollars

had been spent on consulting and engineering and designing the system, there wasn't any money to install the sewers and that the same sewage and seepage was going to continue to flow into Lake Gibson. Can the minister please tell me and tell the good folks at Beaverdams that their project will be short-listed for the next grant of funding so the sewage into Lake Gibson can be halted?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I certainly am aware of the member's interest in both Beaverdams and in sewage. I have had a discussion both with him and with the representatives of Thorold, who presented their concerns to me. But I know also that the member will be well aware that frequently priorities are set by municipalities depending on what they see as their needs, and often sewer replacement often does not reach the top of the municipal priority list.

With respect to our funding, as with every other ministry, we don't have as much money as we would like to spend on all of the needs for sewer infrastructure across this province. We are carefully looking at our priorities and, as I assured the municipal representatives from Welland, we understand the problem and we will attempt to deal with it as soon as we can.

Mr Kormos: The minister is right. The longer I spend as a member of the Legislature, the more I learn about sewage.

People like Janet Gatowski and the Beaverdams Ratepayers Association and the mayor of Thorold are trying to do what they can to be helpful. The problem is they, like so many other applicants for grants and funding assistance, get the proverbial Dear John/Dear Jane letter at the end, with no opportunity to be advised as to how they failed to meet the criteria or what they have to do next time around to make that short list.

Now, we know it's not a matter of who you know. We know it surely is a matter of qualifying. Will you please work with the municipality, with Janet Gatowski and with the Beaverdams Ratepayers Association to help them prepare a submission that is going to be successful, rather than one that's going to be discharged into the waste system?

Hon Mrs Grier: I'm delighted with the number of municipalities with which we have worked to resolve long-outstanding environmental problems over the last two years. We certainly appreciate the improved communication, discussion and cooperation between my ministry and municipalities that we have demonstrated over the last two years. I can assure the member that as we struggle to deal with our priorities, to deal with the funding situation that exists, we will certainly remember the Beaverdams.

1440

FOREST INDUSTRY

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): I also have a question for the Premier. As members know, the Premier is jetting off to Asia later this week, and meanwhile, back at the ranch here in Ontario, the unemployment rate in northern Ontario is 18%. The province's forest industry, which has an annual payroll of \$2.5 billion, employs 64,000 people in this province, creates a \$2-billion

surplus in trade for this province and has a \$5-billion gross domestic product, is suffering devastating effects from this recession. It's being left out in the cold by this government.

This sentiment is underscored by a letter I have from the Ontario Forest Industries Association.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Who's it addressed to?

Mr Brown: It's addressed to the Premier. "It was with great disappointment and frustration that we heard of your inability to meet with us on Friday." That was October 31. "The Ontario Forest Industries Association waited five months for a 20-minute meeting, and a mere 20 hours before that meeting was to be, we were notified that it had been cancelled."

Mr Premier, executives and people from all over this province had come to Toronto specifically for this meeting. The group has heard that the earliest it could be rescheduled was January. That wasn't good enough. They made a lot of phone calls and your office relented and said, "Gee, we can meet with you" when you're back from Asia.

Premier, why can't the forest industry get in to see you in a timely fashion?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I spoke with Mr Alexander of St Marys Paper. I was in Sault Ste Marie on Thursday at the opening of a cogenerating station in which Algoma and St Marys Paper are involved.

I will be quite candid with the member. It's not my staff's fault; it's my own instructions. At the conclusion of the referendum discussion I said: "I'm exhausted. I'd like to try to cut down on the schedule a bit this week." They carried out my instructions. I didn't realize the meeting with the paper industry had been cancelled.

I spoke to Mr Alexander on Friday. I apologized to him. I said to him, "I will see you as soon as I possibly can." When I spoke to Mr Alexander on Friday, he seemed to indicate to me that he understood. He obviously regretted—the member's got the letter. The first I've seen of the letter is just now, but I knew you'd be asking me because it was copied both to your leader and to the leader of the third party. I've apologized personally, and I can only tell the member that I think a meeting has been scheduled for December 3. It's not going to be a short meeting; it's going to be a long meeting and I look forward to it very much. That's the clearest answer I can give you.

Mr Brown: Mr Premier, Ontario needs you here. Forest regeneration in this province has been abandoned by your Minister of Natural Resources. Jobs for northern residents, who depend upon the strength of the forest industry for survival, are at serious risk. Your government is cutting funding to regeneration in the forest management agreements and slashing it on crown land. Tree seedling programs have been cut back. There will be a huge environmental deficit when you leave this place.

Given all the problems we're having in northern Ontario, given all the problems we're having in the recession across Ontario, should the forest industry perhaps have asked to meet you in Osaka?

Hon Mr Rae: I must confess that I've rarely felt as wanted by members of the opposition as I've felt over the last few days. I'm not used to this outpouring of affection, except of course from among my own colleagues. Getting it from the opposition is a rarity.

I would say to the honourable member, I've apologized and I've apologized again with respect to what happened at the meeting on Friday. In retrospect, of course, I wish very much that the meeting had simply gone ahead.

I will say to the honourable member that between now and when I'll be meeting in December, the minister is meeting with them on an ongoing basis, as is Mr Valley, the assistant deputy minister who's responsible for coordinating the strategy with the forest industry. It's an industry that's in deep change. We understand that. We're working very closely with the industry and I'm hoping there will be even more initiatives we can announce over the months ahead.

I've already indicated to the member exactly what happened, what steps I'm taking to deal with the issue, and, as I say, I appreciate his desire to have me around as much as possible.

TORONTO ISLANDS COMMUNITY

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the minister of market value assessment, the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I read in the newspaper today, rather astoundingly, that you are trying to buy off Metropolitan Toronto council by offering it 10 acres of land at Highway 401 and Keele. For that 10 acres of land, you asked them to give up property on the Toronto Islands so there can be a \$2.5-million expenditure for capital projects to build an island public school for 174 students, most of whom, as I understand it, will come from the mainland. It will increase the cost by \$160,000 annually to operate that school.

We know full well it is the socialist elite squatters who live on the Toronto Islands. We know who won every poll in that specific riding. We know full well exactly what this government owes this group of people, considering the sweetheart, lottery-like deal they cut on the islands for those residents.

Can't you think of a better use of public funds than \$2.5 million and \$160,000 annually in education? Couldn't you think of a better use that would have serviced more students than the 174 kids of the socialist elite on the Toronto Islands?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I think this government, right from the beginning of its election, and quite frankly when we were in opposition for many years, shared the same view that Larry Grossman had about protecting the island community and making sure the island community could be maintained and preserved, because we see the value in it. We see that there's affordable housing in an important community for all of Metropolitan Toronto. We agree with the position Larry Grossman has taken, and all our actions around the Toronto Islands issue have been to preserve that island community, just as Larry Grossman said he wanted to do.

Mr Stockwell: Well, we know that Larry Grossman has more influence on this government than the taxpayers of this province have. The simple fact is that it's a \$2.5-million capital improvement. It's \$160,000 annually overspent for a school that's proven to be unnecessary and only motivated by the socialist élite who live on the island.

Mr Speaker, we can all give you list after list of schools that need to be improved; of reconstruction; of new construction; of children who are being bused one, two and three districts away. Clearly, what needs to be said at this time is that if you happen to live on the island and you happen to be a squatter, if you happen to win the lottery and get a 100-year lease from this government, you can also be guaranteed that the education facilities will be built there, regardless of priority.

Mr Minister, my question to you is, where exactly did this expenditure stack up in the needs of all those other people in this province whose education buildings and facilities have been put on hold by your government and your minister because there's not enough money or they don't happen to be socialists?

Hon Mr Cooke: What this government is doing is in the tradition of the last three governments of trying to preserve the island community. I guess what surprises me is the kind of language that is used by the member, which shows how extreme, how right-wing the Tory caucus is now compared to the old days under Bill Davis and Larry Grossman, when it was a progressive group of people in this province.

1450

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): My question is to the Minister of Labour. Just recently in my riding, on Friday, I was visited by an independent business person within the—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. To whom is your question directed?

Mr Bisson: I'll try it again. It's to the Minister of Labour. Mr Minister, last Friday I had a visit from a local business person within my riding who was quite upset, to say the least, in regard to the treatment he had gotten from a particular survey that he was asked to answer in regard to the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

What the individual had told me, and I have every reason to believe that he was right, was that this particular business federation came to his place of business and asked him to answer a series of questions in regard to the performance of the NDP government, and specifically its performance around the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

When the individual tried to score the government in a positive way because he believes the changes that we're making to the Labour Relations Act are positive, he was told to score us lower. I'm just wondering if you're aware of that.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): No, I'm not specifically aware of it, but I am aware of the survey that has been used widely by members across the way in

this House, which contained a disclaimer saying that the survey may very well have been influenced by the desire of people not to see this legislation through.

Mr Bisson: Again to the Minister of Labour, I then went and spoke to a number of local business people within the community of Timmins. Unfortunately, some of those people to whom I talked also had the same kinds of stories to tell; that is, basically, some of the information they were being presented in regard to taking a look at the effects the Ontario Labour Relations Act would have on the Ontario economy was somewhat flawed. According to one other person I talked to when this particular point was raised, it was found that the information that was presented by this federation was quite inaccurate.

I'm just wondering what kind of effect you think that has in regard to some of the surveys we see out there, such as Ernst and Young's and others, in regard to the legitimacy of some of those surveys.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: The other thing that's also obvious is that the opinion survey—and that's the best I'll call it—that was done also indicated six items that were supposed to be in the legislation the province would be doing with Bill 40, and only two of them actually exist in the legislation. So I think it's a clear indication of the disservice that's done by this kind of opinion survey.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Premier. You will recall that following the referendum, you indicated that your number one priority was the economy, and you'd be devoting, I guess, your single-minded attention to it.

This Thursday, as the Premier knows, we will have perhaps one of the most important economic announcements in the province, and we will hear the first six months' financial results. The government has already indicated that the revenue is coming in lower than it expected and that it would be looking at cuts.

My question to you is this, Premier: Recognizing that this is your number one priority and recognizing that this Thursday will be one of the most important economic statements for this year, will you at least consider shortening your Asian trip so that you will be here for the people of Ontario to outline your economic plans on this most important day, this Thursday?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The Treasurer, who is the Deputy Premier and who has been at my right hand—

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I think it's your short hand.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I hate to bring it to you; you don't have a right hand.

Hon Mr Rae: —no, no, my right hand, believe me—for the time since we've been in government and who has been my colleague in battles political and otherwise for a decade, has my full confidence and has the full confidence of all of us with his ability and his integrity. He'll be making the presentation to the House whenever it's to be made.

He's also been leading the discussions in policy and priorities committee at the treasury board meetings, as well as in the cabinet meetings themselves, in caucus and indeed in the wider public.

I'm sure the honourable member for Scarborough-Agincourt shares my views with respect to the integrity and the discipline with which the Treasurer has taken on his responsibilities since I offered him the post of Treasurer in September 1990.

Mr Phillips: It's you, Premier, who said that your attention would be devoted to the economy. It's you who said you wanted to play the leadership role. It's you who said you would be tackling the economy with all your energies. It wasn't the Treasurer, it was you. I'm holding you accountable, Premier.

It happens that last year the second-quarter financial results were out October 24. We now find, by coincidence I gather, that they will come out the day the Premier leaves. I have complete confidence in the Treasurer, but it seems like an odd coincidence that you would choose to leave the country the day that the most important financial results come out, the day which would have given you an opportunity to demonstrate some economic leadership for the people of the province, and I would ask you this question.

I know that you will be sticking to your \$9.9-billion deficit. We have now the numbers from the federal government on revenues, on income tax—personal income tax, corporate income tax—the goods and services tax, which is comparable to the provincial sales tax. I assume you'll be sticking to that number. What sort of cuts in spending will your Treasurer be announcing as your plane wings to the west?

Hon Mr Rae: I would have thought that the honourable member, with his sophistication, would understand the fact that Canada is not an island, Ontario is not an island. We live in a world in which financial information passes at the speed of a moment, in which information is shared.

There's a recession on in Europe, the Japanese economy is slowing down and we see some positive signs in the economy here and in the United States which are starting quite clearly. We also recognize the need for financial discipline and the very real difficulties that we face as a result of the Liberal inheritance, of which the honourable member was an integral part in his period as a five-year member of the Liberal cabinet. He knows full well the challenge that we face, and I can assure him that the Treasurer and I are working hand in glove as we approach this issue, both here and on the international financial markets.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired.

PETITIONS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Eglinton.

[Applause]

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I was somewhat surprised by the round of applause but thank my colleagues, because I think they know what my petition is about.

This is another petition signed by concerned residents of the city of Toronto:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Metropolitan Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived market value assessment plan; and

"Whereas it is arbitrary and demonstrably unfair to use market value as a basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relationship to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas the implementation of such a measure would work undue hardship on the residents of north Toronto, on our long-term home owners, our senior citizens and our tenants; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and will be devastated by further increases,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto and to consider another method of property tax reform for Metro Toronto."

Mr Speaker, I have signed this petition, which I heartily agree with.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order. If you have any conversations, please hold them outside.

1500

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, oppose Bill 40 and draw attention to the following:

"We object to the government's assumption that the only good workplace is a unionized workplace.

"We believe the balance of power is already tilted in favour of labour and that further tinkering will result in fewer investment dollars being spent in Ontario, loss of jobs and revenue and an increase of tension between labour and business.

"We believe that Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession and that employers are already being challenged with existing and proposed legislation.

"We, the citizens of Ontario, did not ask for these changes.

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that Bill 40 be revoked immediately."

These 250 names have been signed by individuals in Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge, and I here affix my signature as well. They are from employees.

GAMBLING

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have a petition here that was sent to me from the Vineland United Mennonite Church in Vineland, just down the street from me. It's a petition to the members of provincial Parliament of Ontario. It's on a proposal to license a permanent gambling establishment in the Niagara Peninsula.

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula. We believe the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular. I believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity. Our signatures here attached are asking you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

I affix my signature to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber): I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act. We believe in the need to keep Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families. The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

That petition is signed by a couple of dozen or so members of my constituency and by me.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across this province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

That's signed by several hundred people, and it joins those 50,000 names that were submitted last week in this Legislature in the same petition. I, too, have affixed my name to it.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act was last updated in 1975; and

"Whereas the Labour Relations Act should reflect the needs of today's workplace and today's workforce,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"To pass Bill 40, An Act to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, without further delay."

This petition has been signed by constituents of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, and I am proud to affix my name to this petition.

GAMBLING

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): This petition is to members of the provincial Parliament. It's about a proposal to license a permanent gambling establishment in the Niagara Peninsula. It comes from Carleton United Church in St Catharines.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula. I believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular. I believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity. By my signature here attached I ask you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

I affix my name to this petition, as I'm in agreement with the congregation of Carleton United Church.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

This is signed by 30 people, and I too affix my signature.

GAMBLING

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 102 members mostly of the Hebron Christian Reformed Church in Whitby. They are hard-working, excellent people. Their petition reads:

"Whereas the Ontario government is considering legalizing gambling casinos; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impacts on society...; and

"Whereas both actions are against New Democrat principles and against our religious value system;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery and betting terminals...."

ABORTION CLINIC

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I have a petition signed by 37 residents of my community. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the government of Ontario has expressed its intention to use \$400,000 of taxpayers' money to increase the security at the private abortion clinic of Dr Henry Morgentaler and an additional \$200,000 of taxpayers' money to help rebuild this 'for profit' clinic;

"Whereas the Ontario deficit has risen to astronomical proportions, creating serious hardship for Ontario taxpayers, at the same time that programs and services are being withdrawn, including crucial health care and social service programs;

"Whereas all other private Ontario businesses are expected to provide their own security and obtain business insurance to cover fire, vandalism and other such calamities;

"We, the undersigned, while abhorring the violent act which destroyed Dr Morgentaler's clinic, do petition the Legislature of Ontario to immediately recant its intention to inappropriately utilize Ontario tax dollars on this private clinic."

I've affixed my signature thereto.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a petition here to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have here more than 1,000 names. They have been signed by small business people and employees throughout the province of Ontario. As I say, there are more than 1,000 names.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 52 residents of Middlesex in regard to the arbitrator's report for the greater London area.

These petitioners respectfully ask the Legislature of Ontario to set aside the arbitrator's report because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority of people living in London and Middlesex, it awards far too extensive an area of land to the city of London and it will jeopardize agricultural land in the county of Middlesex, the viability of the county of Middlesex and our rural way of life.

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

1510

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario to "reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendations of a massive annexation of land by the city of London," signed by 37 residents of Middlesex county and signed by myself.

WATER QUALITY

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas we are all taxpayers of the village of Oil Springs and demand better water, the village is presently providing water to its residents from wells within the village, but the water-table is low, the water pressure has dropped, the water is cloudy and dirty and unhealthy,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"To receive financial assistance from the province of Ontario to bring pipeline water to the village of Oil Springs and from the town of Petrolia's water system."

I have attached my signature.

LAYOFFS

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition which reads:

"Whereas the general level of unemployment in Ontario is extremely high and has caused severe hardship for individuals and families;

"Whereas hundreds of firms in Ontario have filed for bankruptcy and have had their employees join the ranks of the unemployment rolls;

"Whereas youth unemployment is higher in Ontario than in all other provinces;

"Whereas General Motors may announce several plant closings with resulting job losses this month and the presence of the Premier in the province is necessary to persuade General Motors to keep all of its Ontario operations open,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to cancel his impending trip to Asia and to remain in North America to present the Ontario GM workers' case to General Motors officials and to respond to important and urgent questions about the Ontario economy in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

This is signed by a number of concerned individuals of the province of Ontario.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): A petition to the members of provincial Parliament re amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act proposed wide-open Sunday shopping and elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday:

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of legal holiday in the Retail Business Holidays Act. We believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families. The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

This has been signed by approximately 30 people from Kitchener and Waterloo and I hereby affix my signature.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND
VULNERABLE SPECIES ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 SUR LES ESPÈCES VULNÉRABLES,
MENACÉES OU EN VOIE DE DISPARITION

On motion by Mr Wiseman, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 91, An Act to revise the Endangered Species Act and amend the Law relating to Endangered Species / Loi révisant la Loi sur les espèces en voie de disparition et modifiant les lois relatives aux espèces en voie de disparition

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Do you have any brief remarks?

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): The purpose of this bill is to replace the Endangered Species Act. The act currently provides protection to endangered species of animals and plants. The bill extends this protection to threatened and vulnerable species. A board is established to advise the Minister of Natural Resources as to which species should be declared endangered, threatened or vulnerable and as to possible recovery plans to ensure the survival of the species.

A fund is also established to help cover the costs of the administration of the act. In addition, a minimum fine is provided for violations of the act. The bill also amends the Environmental Assessment Act to provide that the provisions of that act apply to any project that may affect the habitat of endangered, threatened or vulnerable species.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Introduction of bills? On a point of order.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I wonder if the member who just introduced the bill has included the New Democratic Party on the list of endangered species to be protected under this bill.

Mr Wiseman: In fact, I've included the Liberals and Tories.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Introduction of bills? Orders of the day.

OPPOSITION DAY

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Harris moved opposition day motion number 3:

Whereas the NDP government's amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, known as Bill 40, will kill jobs and destroy investment in Ontario;

And whereas Bill 40 ignores the rights of individual workers by not legislating a secret ballot vote for certification, ratification of a collective agreement and the decision to strike;

And whereas a Progressive Conservative government will repeal Bill 40 following the next election and initiate a fair and balanced tripartite process to review labour relations in Ontario,

Therefore, this House calls upon the NDP government to immediately withdraw Bill 40.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Shall the motion carry? It might just carry.

In anticipation that it won't carry without debate, perhaps I'll need to use some persuasive argument as to why the government will do itself a big favour, will certainly do a favour to the economy of the province of Ontario, and perhaps more importantly, will do a favour to the working men and women of this province if it will withdraw Bill 40 today and proceed with a truly meaningful discussion with organized labour, with labour that is not unionized, with business, with those involved in training and educating our workforce and with the government on how we are truly going to make our province more competitive and how we are going to make sure that our companies can grow, our companies can expand and our companies can make a profit.

Then there will be more money there for workers. There will be something that unions and management can sit down and debate, if you like, about whether shareholders or management or workers—how much of the pie will all of them get, but at least there will be a pie to talk about.

Before we can move to that, this bill will need to be withdrawn. I believe that the day a government—this one or a future government—has the courage to put aside vested interests, to put aside who owes what to whom and truly comes together, not with ideology or philosophy or left-wing/right-wing, but with some common sense, to examine how Ontario is going to prosper again, how we are going to regain our position within Canada and within North America, and indeed within the world, where we were, as the slogan used to be, Yours to Discover—we were where so many people wanted to raise a family, wanted to work, wanted to go to school, wanted to set up a factory, wanted to locate a business. Currently, we are not. We are not in as enviable a position today vis-à-vis other provinces, other countries, as we were for so many years, and Bill 40 is one of the reasons.

1520

The direction and the reason for Bill 40, and how this government is proceeding: First of all, it's job-killing legislation. Every single study that's been done points out that jobs will be lost, some more than others. In one Ernst and Young study, 250,000 jobs are threatened.

Nobody can say for sure how many jobs. There will always be arguments: "That's because of free trade," or, "That's because of something Taiwan did," or, "That's Brian Mulroney's fault," or, "It's because of taxes," or other reasons. Nobody will ultimately know for sure why a company invested in another province, another state or another country, why they shunned Ontario, why they didn't come here or why they may have left.

Nobody will ever be able to say precisely how many jobs, but every study that's been done says jobs will be lost. Our own survey that we did—our party did—I believe was pretty unbiased, pretty straightforward. It was by mail. There was certainly no pressure put on anyone. We surveyed those in the job creation business, businesses large and small across Ontario. Eighty-eight per cent said it will cost jobs, that they themselves will not be able to grow, expand or hire more workers; 81% say Ontario will be a less attractive place to invest.

I know Bob White disagrees with that, or at least says he disagrees with that, and so does Bob Rae: The Premier said he disagrees with that. But it is not Bob White or Bob Rae who is planning to invest five cents of his own money; it's the private sector. Those were the people we were talking to. They're the ones whose opinions count.

Will the private sector invest? There's no point in asking someone who has no plans to invest; no point in asking the public sector. You ask those who are in a position to invest or plan to invest somewhere. Those risk-takers, those who are prepared to invest their money, say no. If ever the government needs an indication, if they talked to their own public sector workers, unionized, are saying about their own pension money: "Keep your mitts off our pension money. We don't trust you or the government to invest our money."

If ever you need further proof that the policies of this government are not working towards an advantage to getting a return on investment, just ask your own unionized workforce that works for the government of Ontario and what it is saying about giving the money to government—the pension money—to invest. They say, "Keep your mitts off our money."

There is a need to create jobs, obviously: So many have been lost in the past few years in this province. If you want the private sector to create them, and I suggest we do, because government can't create them—you've gone \$10 billion into debt and every time you go a billion more in debt more jobs are lost, so obviously you can't create them. You can't create more than you're losing. The more money you borrow, the more you tax to try and spend and create jobs as a public sector, then the more private sector jobs are lost as a result.

I suggest you do want the private sector to create jobs. Then you're going to have to have a more positive environment, a more positive climate in this province than

there is today. Bill 40 is one of those bills about which the private sector, the job creators, are saying, "If you proceed with this, we are less likely to invest in the province of Ontario." That, in and of itself, should be enough to say, "Whoa, let's scrap this legislation and look at another way to bring business and labour together."

The second reason we've introduced the motion at this time is that the government motives for the legislation are very suspect. It will not create jobs. There's not one single study anywhere in the province that says it will create jobs. Every study that's been done says it will lose jobs. Not one study, anywhere, even one done by Bob White, says this will not destroy jobs. There's not one study.

So we ask, then why are we proceeding if it's not going to create a job? When we look at 88% of card-carrying union members saying, "We don't agree with this legislation; we're opposed to giving Bob White the supreme, ultimate authority to sit down and cut a deal with the government, the Premier, or even the chairman of GM; we're opposed to that; we want a democratic right, a secret ballot right to vote," then we ask why you're proceeding. Then we look at the union support of the union leadership for the NDP; we look at the free labour at election time, and we look at the money and we sense a motive here. We sense the motive.

We sense that, Bob White, representing the union leadership—we use him as epitomizing all the union leaders who are for this—Bob Mackenzie and Bob Rae, you've cooked up this deal for the union bosses. That's who benefits, not the working men and women, not card-carrying union members, not those working men and women who are not workers and certainly not those who are out of work. Because the motives are suspect, we are asking you to withdraw this legislation.

We are asking at this time to scrap the legislation because we in this caucus, in this party, as we have for so many years, as we have for so many decades of governing this province, as we do now in opposition, as we do now today, continue to fight for the worker. We continue to represent the worker. We continue to fight for the worker. We're not anti-union, as some of the NDP will say. They'll say, "You're anti-union." We're not anti-union. It was our government that brought in much of the legislation that encouraged collective bargaining, encouraged and supported the right of workers to unionize and to bargain collectively. Our party brought that in. We stand behind that legislation. We're here today.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Talk about revisionist history. You brought it in with same enthusiasm Robarts went for medicare.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Who did it? Remember the government that did it.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order.

Mr Harris: You know, some members of the NDP are—was there some other government that brought in the legislation? It was the Progressive Conservative government. So we are asking, at this time, to repeal this legislation.

We go back to the changes that Mr Robarts made, for example, with a majority government, no gun to his head. He wanted to empower workers. He wanted more jobs. He wanted workers to get a fair share. We are pro-worker. We were pro-worker then, when we brought in the legislation; we are pro-worker today. We are fighting.

Now that the NDP has abandoned the working men and women of this province in favour of the élite, the union leadership, the ones who are directing the money to them, the ones who are directing the free workers to them at election time, now that you've abandoned the working men and women of this province, it's more important than ever that we in this party speak up for, represent and fight for working men and women in this province.

Whether they're unionized, choose to unionize or whether they're non-unionized, we will continue to fight for what is in the best interests of working men and women in this province. This Bill 40 is for the union bosses. It's not for the working rank and file members. We are calling and we insisted on calling for secret ballot rights for the workers so they'll have a democratic right to vote without pressure, a free democratic right to a secret ballot. There is no more fundamental right in democracy, in free societies, in free democracies anywhere in the world. This bill disallows that, prevents that from happening.

There is no amount of justification for any union leaders to argue that they not only need the authority, the power to represent the workers, but that they need to be able to make important decisions affecting whether those workers will be able to feed their families or not, affecting whether or not they'll be able to work, without a secret ballot vote. That is unacceptable. If ever that is running roughshod, trampling over the rights of working men and women in this province, that is it.

You can't imagine how distressed I am that any political party, let alone this political party, obviously, when it said it was going to put people first, is now saying: "No, we're putting Bob White first. We know what side our bread is buttered on. We're putting them first ahead of workers." So we are calling for a secret ballot, so the worker has a democratic right to vote without pressure from the union bosses.

1530

There's a fourth reason why we're introducing this motion at this time. It's the balance between management and labour that's required. A lot of people have talked about this. Bob Rae, the Premier, has the rhetoric right. I guess he's reading polls and seeing what's going on around the world, so they take from that the rhetoric. But it's not followed up with the actions.

Again, perhaps it's because of the motives of the NDP, that are so suspect. They obviously do not have the interests of the rank and file at heart. The rank and file want jobs, and they want good-paying jobs. We need cooperation between business and labour, not confrontation. This bill creates confrontation. This bill tips the balance of power in favour of the union management, away from the worker, away from the rank-and-file union member, and away from the investor and the management and the employer towards the union leader.

When I look at the motive, I look at what's happening around the world. The Premier refers from time to time about how labour and management cooperate in Germany. He's used that country, he's used Europe, he's used Japan. They're 20 or 30 years ahead of this government. In many ways their unions are 20 or 30 years ahead of the union leadership, not the rank-and-file union member, but some of the union leadership—and not all, of course; quite frankly, there are some very progressive union leaders in this province. They're not the ones being listened to today, unfortunately.

The Premier doesn't realize that this coming together of management and unions, of management and workers, doesn't happen when you give power to one side or the other, to bring the other side in on their hands and knees. In fact, unions and organized labour today have enough power to bankrupt any company in Ontario, collectively to bankrupt the province. Management has that power too. If we are not able to facilitate, as the third party, as representatives of the people, as the government, how management and labour are going to check whatever powers they have at the door and come together to work cooperatively on how that company, how that sector, how this province are going to be able to compete in a changing world marketplace, how we're going to be able to not only survive but grow and prosper and take advantage of the many opportunities that are presented to us, if we're not prepared to do that, then we're going to fall by the wayside.

This government seems to idly sit by and say: "Oh, well, when the recession's over, then we'll balance the budget. When the recession's over, then we want the union leadership to have this power." As you sit back and wait for the recession to be over, the world is passing you by. Major restructuring is taking place. These jobs are popping up in other provinces and other states and other countries. There are different jobs from the ones that were lost. They require more skills, more educated workers. They're new technologies. They are jobs that are able, through a new plant, new machinery, to compete on a world market. They're simply not taking place here, very few of them are. Some do, in spite of the government, but obviously more are leaving, because we're losing 500 jobs a day for every day you've been in office.

Because this bill furthers that confrontation between management and labour, because it drives them further apart in this coming together that must take place, because the only leadership you've been able to show on this is not, "How do I facilitate this as Premier, as Minister of Labour, as minister of industry and trade," the only leadership you can say is, "Boy, we'll give the unions so much power that management will have to come on their hands and knees to give them whatever they want."

Quite frankly, those that have a choice about whether they want to work in that environment are saying: "No, thank you. I prefer other provinces. I prefer other states. I prefer other countries. That's where I will invest my money. That's where I will go." For that reason, we are calling today for the government to repeal this bill.

Finally, because I know many others wish to speak to this, because of the four reasons I have mentioned and

others—killing jobs; the motive, the NDP payback to the union bosses; that it doesn't protect the democratic rights of workers; because it creates confrontation and tips the balance in favour of labour, that delicate balance between labour and management—I have stated very clearly on behalf of my caucus and my party that after the next election, we will repeal Bill 40. We will scrap it. We will end it.

We don't want to see two and a half more years while we're waiting of confrontation between management and workers before that takes place. We don't want to see two and a half years of pain and suffering and job losses, of families going through the hardship and the traumatic transition. It's traumatic enough when you have to change your job, as many will have to; but the only change that's taking place right now is losing the old job when there's no new one to replace it.

So for the next two and a half years, we would prefer the government to put its efforts into how we attract that new job that's going to replace the one that's disappearing. For two and a half years, this province can't stand that our families, our individuals, our workers can lose 500 jobs a day and that we not replace them with the restructured jobs that are growing up all around the world. Those jurisdictions that recognize that take advantage of it, and we want you to put your efforts there.

Because we don't want two more years of job loss, two more years of confrontation, two more years of hardening of positions, we ask the government right now: Why put our province and our people and our workers through this for two years when we're going to scrap it anyway? We're going to change it right after the next election. Why not do it now? Why not get a head start on the restructuring and on the climate that's necessary in this province for private sector investment and job creation?

I tell you, it's in your interest to do this, it's in the NDP's interest to do this, because the way they're going they won't elect one member after the next election. They won't re-elect one, not one.

So on behalf of families, on behalf of the working men and women of this province, we ask this government to withdraw this bill today and get down to the real challenge before us of creating the jobs we so desperately need and want and that our working men and women deserve in this province.

Mr Donald Abel (Wentworth North): It's a pleasure to rise to speak to the motion put forth by the leader of the third party this afternoon.

Armed with dubious studies and questionable public opinion polls, business lobbies and of course their political allies suggest that this law would ruin Ontario, with firms fleeing and honest working people left jobless. However, I would like to suggest that most of the apocalyptic predictions are based on surveys led by corporate chief executive officers and, again, their political allies.

It's a historical fact that the corporate élite has never been shy about defending its own interests. Back in 1920 Canadian businesses raised \$1 million—and that was big bucks back then—to wage a major propaganda campaign

against rising free trade sentiment and its main proponent, the Progressive Party.

A quarter century later, with the CCF striking a chord with Canadians dreaming of a better world after the Second World War, business again mobilized. Between 1942 and 1945, business launched the largest single propaganda campaign in Canadian history to discredit the CCF, a name still familiar to us today. There was barely a corporation in the country that did not actively throw itself into a vicious and hysterical smear campaign; again, their political allies. So pathological was the fear of the then Ontario Tory leader George Drew that he actually maintained during those years a secret police agency to spy on CCFers and other political figures they perceived to be left-wing.

1540

As recently as the 1988 federal election, corporate Canada intervened monolithically in a ferocious effort to re-elect the Mulroney government and save the free trade deal; 162 corporations made donations to the Canadian Alliance for Trade and Job Opportunities. Today over 60 corporations refuse to divulge the amount of their contributions. We know that CP, Alcan and Shell all gave \$250,000 each; Noranda, Royal Bank and Imperial Oil all gave \$200,000; and just about anybody who is anybody on Bay Street chipped in tens of thousands of dollars more. The alliance itself admitted to an over-\$5-million war chest.

Of course, their fearmongering worked beautifully, just as it did 50 years ago against the CCF. Obviously, many business people hope they'll be equally successful in forcing the government of Ontario to back down on virtually every progressive move it wants to make.

It is inevitable that big business and the NDP will not see eye to eye on certain issues of social justice or income redistribution. But they should come to some understanding with this government. If they could tone down the rhetoric and give the government some room, I'm sure a successful accommodation of interests could be obtained.

However, their strategy continues. We're being subjected to the shameless fearmongering tactics of yesteryear over the proposed changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. We see hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent by lobby groups speculating wildly and complaining that any changes in Ontario labour laws would be detrimental to our economy. They know that's not true, and my colleagues, I'm sure, will allude to that later.

There is absolutely no justification for the argument that the OLRA reforms are an obstacle to the Ontario government's commitment to actively promote jobs and invest in the province. In fact, despite the worst recession in over 50 years, we have had nearly \$12 billion in foreign investment from over 475 firms investing in this province in the last year. In addition, the Ford Motor Co has recently invested over \$2 billion in this province.

Bill 40 and unions didn't frighten them away, because they know that unions are not radical; they are essentially conservative organizations which help maintain a middle class that is solid and stable. It's no accident that the world's two most economically dynamic, socially conservative and

middle-class nations, Japan and Germany, are extensively unionized.

For the corporate élite and of course their legislative allies, the Liberals and the Tories, a province without unions may sound very tempting, but in the long run it's bad business and bad politics.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I'm pleased to join in the debate on this resolution before the Legislature. In the time allotted, I hope to address some of my concerns to two areas: One will be process generally, and secondly will be substance.

After listening to the previous comments, I can well understand the very deep concern many people have throughout the province with respect to this particular piece of legislation and the way the government will attempt to implement the legislation. I think the previous speaker's comments really are a manifestation of the very deep concern that I have heard throughout the province on this particular bill.

I think I'd like to go back and talk about the area of process. We will remember that this bill was introduced on June 4 at approximately 3:30 in the afternoon, and 90 minutes afterwards the government House leader, without any notice to the opposition parties, tabled new rules of procedure in this Legislature. The impact of those new rules of procedure did nothing less than limit debate on pieces of legislation.

I've drawn the conclusion that the new rules, tabled without any notice, were nothing less than the grease that will get Bill 40 through the Legislature. It will get the bill into law and through the Legislature without members of this Legislature having the opportunity to express their views on the bill, their concerns, and their constituents' opinions as to how Bill 40 may affect their particular ridings. For a government to do that on a bill, the implications and ramifications of which are so severe, I believe, is irresponsible in the extreme.

We saw the result of those new rules as we went through the public hearing process. It was without question that there were many groups and associations that wished to speak on this bill. In fact, in our committee we had approximately 1,100 or 1,200 requests from groups and associations that wanted to come before the committee to speak about their concerns and their opinions on Bill 40 and what it meant to them. But with the new rules and with the dictated time allocation motion by the government, we were only able to hear something in the area of 220 groups. It is clear that the committee heard less than 25% of the groups that wished to be heard on this bill.

We also know that those groups represented hundreds of thousands of Ontario citizens, represented the opinions, the thoughts and the hopes of hundreds of thousands of Ontario citizens. To this day, this committee and this Legislature will not know what those concerns were, and they will not know what they were because of, firstly, the new rules of procedure as laid down by the government which limited debate and, secondly, the time allocation motion which stifled the committee in its public hearing process. So I do have a very deep concern over the process that was

used by the government in greasing through this legislation to become law.

There is another aspect to the process which I have found particularly distasteful as used by the government. We will remember that this bill had as its seed what was called the Burkett committee. The Burkett committee was made up of basically two sides: management and labour. That's how the government decided to proceed with this bill, with this area, with these changes: to pick sides; to pick a management side, to pick a labour side. I believe that was a fatal error from the very beginning, because if we were going to deal with changes to the Labour Relations Act, the last thing you wanted to do was to pick sides. What you wanted to do was have a united team, but the government decided there would be a management side and a labour side.

I say that every action taken by the government since that first day has been to broaden the distance between labour and management, to build the distance to a point in time where both labour and management are doing and saying things that I believe will take years to heal. I believe wounds have been created and I lay that responsibility at the foot of the Premier of this province, because the Premier of this province could at the very outset have said: "No, this is not the way in which you deal with changes to the Labour Relations Act of Ontario. You deal with it in a cooperative, consultative, consensual manner. You don't build teams and then seek to build the distance between those teams."

We heard in the previous speaker's statements how the big business community has somehow mounted a campaign designed to thwart Bill 40. I must say that I'm concerned about that. The NDP government, the NDP members, whenever there was a concern brought forward on Bill 40, have from day one consistently responded by saying, "Well, that's another hysterical business response to Bill 40." It didn't matter what the concern was, it didn't matter who made the concern, it didn't matter how the concern was voiced; the response by the NDP government members was always to say, "Well, this is another example of a hysterical business response."

1550

What were some of those responses that the NDP government members characterize as hysterical? One was by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. They were concerned about Bill 40. They were concerned that the provisions within Bill 40 would in many ways stop them from doing what is their function under another piece of legislation, which is to act in the best interests of children. The response by the NDP government members was, "Another hysterical business response."

What about when we heard from school boards which had a concern about Bill 40 and how it would impact on school bus operators? We know that in many communities in this province the only way in which children get to school is by the school bus. Under Bill 40, if there is a strike of school bus operators, then there is no way the children can get to school. In essence, the system is closed down. What was the response by the government members on the committee? "Another hysterical business response."

There were other concerns that were brought forward, concerns from researchers in universities about how Bill 40 would affect them in their work. We heard concerns from municipalities, from gas utilities, from hydro utilities; people who were concerned about what the impact of this bill would be on their being able to carry out their functions.

The Attorney General of the province of Ontario seeks to ridicule the concerns brought forward. I only hoped that the Attorney General would have had the opportunity to come before the committee to listen to some of the concerns brought forward by children's aid societies, by school boards, by municipalities, by hydro utilities and gas utilities and had heard and understood what it was they were saying. They were saying that Bill 40 will have an impact on the way in which they are able to provide services to the people of this province.

For the government members to turn their backs on those types of concerns, for the government members to somehow characterize this as some hysterical approach and response to Bill 40 is, I believe, irresponsible in the extreme.

I fear for many people in this province once this bill is going to be law. I fear the impact this bill is going to have in our municipalities and on our abilities as citizens of this province; for instance, if a furnace needs repair during a work stoppage, whether it will be possible for that to be done. I fear for the impact this bill will have on children who have to be taken in through the children's aid society: intake, assessment, visitation.

The Attorney General of the province seeks only to ridicule these types of concerns. I believe that isn't becoming. I believe the Attorney General should do more than just ridicule and interject. I hope the Attorney General of the province would have listened to some of those concerns.

This is a bill which is not just about whether one is in favour or is opposed to unionization. That is not what this bill is about. This is a bill which, in my opinion, flies in the face of some of the concerns that we have raised and that people have raised in our committee. People's concerns throughout this province have been brought forward.

The government would want everyone to believe that in the event you vote against this bill, it means you vote against workers; if you vote in favour of this bill, you vote in favour of workers. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. This bill—and I have said it time and time again—takes away from the rights of workers to decide how their workplace is to be governed.

We, as a party, brought forward amendments. We brought forward amendments seeking to give to workers of this province a right to choose as to how their workplace is to be governed. We brought forward an amendment that said that in the event there is an organizing drive, it is important for the workers of that workplace to be informed; to be informed that an organizing drive is taking place; that when that takes place, when that notice is being given, any communication made to a worker in a workplace during an organizing drive must take place in the presence of a member from the labour relations board.

Why is that? The reason is that we heard in committee that there were instances of intimidation, from employer and from organizing union. What we feel is important is that if an organizing drive is taking place, the workers of this province should have full protection against intimidation and coercion from whatever source; that workers of this province should have the right, firstly, to be notified of an organizing drive taking place and, secondly, to be told what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act of Ontario. We brought forward those amendments, which would seek, firstly, to enhance the rights of workers of this province and, secondly, to protect the workers of this province.

What happened when we brought forward those amendments? The government members, the NDP members on the committee voted against. When those amendments were tabled in this chamber just last week, what did the NDP government do to those amendments, which informed workers of their rights, which made certain that they were protected against intimidation and coercion? They voted against. The NDP members will have to justify how they can possibly vote against amendments which seek to protect workers in an organizing campaign.

The issue is not whether one is in favour or opposed to unionization. The issue for me is, when there is an organizing drive, that the workers of this province are protected and are able to cast a vote, yes or no, in a free, secret and democratic way. When we brought forward amendments which would seek to give to workers that right, seek to give to workers the right to secretly decide in a free, democratic way, where majority rules as to how they wish their workplace to be governed, the NDP government voted against.

I have had great concerns with the bill. I have had concerns with not only the substance of the bill—and I've just touched on one aspect of that—but also with the process that the bill has used. I believe that with respect to the process the government has undertaken, it has caused damage, it has caused wounds, it has caused rifts in our society at a time when management and labour should be working together, when they should be meeting the demands of competition, not from competition around the corner but rather from competition over the horizon.

1600

What has the NDP government done? They have locked in battle labour and management in a committee room at Queen's Park, at a time when they should have been working together to send out a message that this is a province people can invest in, where a person with an existing business here can look to expand in this province, where new jobs can be created, where there can be a security that the existing jobs will be here tomorrow.

I believe the process the government has used with respect to this bill has been destructive. It has not sent out a positive message; it has sent out a negative message. The previous speaker enhanced that message. He believes, in his comments, that there is some sort of war that is going on between labour and management. The fact of the matter is, the only war that is going on is one that has been

created by Bob Rae. That's the only war, because Bob Rae sought to create teams, to create sides in labour relations.

What has the business community asked for over a year? Have they said there should be no change to labour relations in this province? The answer is—let's get this out, because I know there are many people who are watching on their televisions—that the business community has never said there should be no change to labour relations in this province. They have said: "If there is to be change, let's do so in a tripartite committee. Let's do so working together. Let's do so with representatives of business, management, labour and government sitting down across from each other at one table, discussing the issues that have to be addressed and how they can be addressed." Is that some sort of hysterical approach to labour relations change? I think not.

I believe that is the way in which this government should have proceeded, but the government chose to take the position of confrontation. They chose to work away from consensus. They chose to work in teams, saying and doing things that will cause wounds in this province that will take years to heal.

Bill 40 substantively takes away the rights of workers in this province. It does nothing for women workers in this province or for immigrant workers in this province. It is clear. Notwithstanding any of the press releases the government seeks to foist on people, we heard in the committee that this bill does not do it. It takes away from the rights of workers to freely and democratically choose how their workplace is to be governed.

The government has instituted this bill, which will soon be law, in a way that is confrontational. They have turned their backs on the many people in this province who have serious concerns and reservations about the bill. They have turned their backs on the many groups and associations that want to say:

"Let's sit down and deal with it in a consultative way. Let's deal with the issues that have to be addressed, let's deal with the way in which they have to be addressed and let's arrive at a solution in a consensual manner, as a team, dealing with the realities of competition today, dealing with the reality that we want to make certain this is a province that sends out a message that you can invest here, that you can create new jobs here and that the jobs today will be there tomorrow."

This government substantively and procedurally has turned its back on those who have those types of concerns.

The legacy of this bill, I fear, will be a lack of investment, will be a loss of jobs. It is a legacy this government is going to have to live with. It is a bill which takes away from the rights of workers. It is a bill which does not stand in the best interests of the workers of this province. It is a bill which I and my party will be voting against.

We can only hope, in these dying hours before the final vote is taken, that the government will somehow come to grips with the realities people have been expressing. This is a bill which should be withdrawn, reworked, redone, relooked, with people working together, as opposed to the way Bob Rae wants it, and that is confrontation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate on Mr Harris's motion?

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the debate on the motion as tabled by my leader, the member for Nipissing, to withdraw Bill 40, amendments to the Labour Relations Act, and to bring to the attention of this NDP government today in the House many of the concerns of my constituents and many of the concerns of organizations that I have had the opportunity to meet with as part of the consultation process and also that I work with in my community.

They are trying to express, through us on this side of the House, some of the concerns with respect to how this legislation will adversely impact their lives and how their very real concerns about the future economic prosperity of our province, the future climate for business investment and the future growth and development of jobs are all legitimate concerns which they feel this government is not listening to, as embodied in its preoccupation with forcing through this legislation.

I believe it is fair to say that seldom have we seen such a piece of legislation endure so much confrontation from all sides. That should be a clear signal to this government that the process by which it's proceeding with this legislation and the content of this legislation are highly suspect.

It's a very controversial bill, and its opponents do not, as the Premier and the Minister of Labour would have us all believe, fit into nice, neat packages of being all just special-interest groups, corporate welfare bums—an offensive phrase created by their federal party leader some years ago. They don't fit into that category because, in fact, the opposition to this legislation comes from housewives, unemployed workers, employers, small business people, social service agencies, from a wide cross-section of Ontarians who have taken the time to understand this bill in order to be able to respond to it in an intelligent fashion. Frankly, what they're saying is that it's inappropriate in this economy, it's unnecessary in this modern Ontario, and it will not achieve what the government suggests it will achieve.

Much has been said about the so-called consultation process. Those of us who work intimately with committee clerks in this Legislature know the amount of political tampering that goes on with arranging for a whole series of speakers to appear before a committee, the horse-trading that went on to make sure that for every unknown speaker, there must be a pro-union speaker there. They line them all up, and unions divide themselves to make sure they have three, four or five different representatives, all so that the government can say: "See? The majority of the people came forward and supported the proposals in this legislation."

That is not consultation; that's consensus engineering, and it's political tampering of the worst order. So the government wants to defend this legislation? Fine. But don't try to suggest that you consulted widely and there's wide acceptance. The truth is that instead of achieving a consensus on labour relations in this province, this government has succeeded in driving a wedge between business and labour. At the most crucial time in our modern history, the last thing that business and labour need in this province is

to have a wedge driven between them and to have a process of confrontation developed around legislation promoted by any government.

According to the report by the Ontario and Burlington chambers of commerce, the role of a government in an industrial economy is to be the least intrusive possible while creating an environment in which economic growth and development can be sustained. Central to this point is the spirit of cooperation between the government and the private sector. These are the things that Bob Rae said he stood for before the election, and we're quite disturbed and upset that now that he's the Premier he seems to have forgotten those very words that helped get him elected.

1610

The competitive market economy is fundamental to our economic renewal, and frankly, as the Chairman of the estimates committee, I've been sitting with ministers of this government, listening to them state that their prospects for delivery of services are tied to economic renewal. I say to those ministers, you can't justify your lack of funds and your commitment to assist social services, health and other requirements of Ontario residents and tie that to economic renewal, and then, when there's clear evidence that this legislation does not do that, simply flip your argument out of convenience and pretend those arguments don't exist. There's a cruel hypocrisy in an approach where a government says its commitment to social services, to the citizens of this province, is tied to economic renewal and then proceeds with this kind of legislation.

I've mentioned that comprehensive social service programs in the public sector have traditionally not understood the importance of ensuring that we have a strong business environment in which to create the wealth in order to pay for those services. This is not an Ontario experiment; this is a global understanding of how our economies work.

Europe is filled with socialist governments on the brink of collapse, who've had to get back to basics and fundamentals about economies to realize that you can't tax the dwindling wealth of a nation. Yet this government is prepared to proceed in the midst of all the clear evidence and so is prepared to put at risk many of the things we've built and come to appreciate in this province. They're prepared to put those things at risk for their own ideological purposes and in order to say thank you to labour bosses who have assisted them through very difficult elections over the last 25 or 30 years.

There's no question there's a big political marker out there, but the bigger political marker is to our children. If we can't as politicians understand and agree that what we owe them is their future prosperity, not putting today's programs at risk so they're in place for tomorrow, then we have failed our most important commitment as legislators.

This government seems bound and determined to follow on its ideological path with this kind of legislation, which is clearly why the motion before the House today is most appropriate and worthy of support by all members.

The public is getting quite an insight into the real nature of a socialist government and they're starting to see some of these contradictions in its philosophy of social

democracy. Of course, I'm concerned by the most important cornerstone of betrayal in this Bill 40 legislation: the removal of any right for a worker to have a secret ballot.

I was personally offended by the defence by one of the socialist members of the House who said that, "Having a secret ballot is a rather narrow view of democracy." I hope the citizens of Ontario realize what an inconvenience the ballot box is to a socialist government. We're getting quite an insight as to the way this government is now operating, and it is embodied in its approach to Bill 40. They are going to have to get a rude awakening, like all political parties do, with the most important wake-up call a politician can get: the ballot box.

Certainly the Tories learned about the lack of consultation when they faced voters on separate school funding. Recently the Liberals learned the consequences of taxation policies run amok in the last election, and certainly the NDP are going to have to learn what the consequences are for not protecting jobs, protecting our economy and, therefore, protecting our future prosperity. They're going to learn that in less than two and a half years at the ballot box.

I indicated I wanted to say a few words about some of my constituents.

Bill Lincoln, the president of Ball Packaging in my riding, said: "These changes would increase the cost and risk of doing business in Ontario by further polarizing labour and management. Ontario would become the less favoured place to invest."

Robert Charbonneau, the president of Medallion Plastics in Burlington, said to the Premier: "Your government must understand the enormous competitive disadvantages already confronting Ontario manufacturers, including a more onerous tax regime than our US competitors, rising energy costs, costly social programs. If the NDP government implements these reforms, our capacity to remain competitive could be obliterated."

Mr C.D. Allen in Burlington writes about the confrontational nature of this government:

"The competitive climate in which Ontario businesses must operate today requires a lessening of the adversarial relationship between labour and management and an enhancement of the cooperative spirit found in truly successful companies. It is quite clear that if the proposed changes are adopted, their ultimate effect will be to enhance the adversarial relationship between labour and management and lessening that cooperative spirit."

John Rutledge, an accountant from Burlington, states in a letter, "The fiscal demands now placed on Ontario businesses are oppressive, and to enact these new proposals would be to strangle the economic confidence and the climate of this great province."

Mr Hans Vander Stoep, the executive director of the Canadian Christian Business Federation, states, "There is very little point in talking about organizing labour if there is no work."

The unemployment rate has been rising steadily. One in 10 Ontario citizens is now receiving social assistance. Ontario's public debt has risen by almost 50%, to a projected \$52 billion for the current fiscal year. While the

province's credit rating has been cut twice, under Bill 40, workers will effectively have their democratic right to say no to union membership taken away from them. They won't even have the choice to assist in their own economic prosperity and their own future employment. This will be taken away from them.

According to Catherine Swift of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, "You'll have more protection in this province buying a vacuum cleaner than as a worker joining a union and having a choice."

An interesting point is raised by Linda Ciglen and Catherine Swift in their submission on Bill 40, which I had the pleasure of reading, when they say that:

"If unions had a track record of being workplace partners dedicated to improving productivity and increasing cooperation, then businesses would be falling all over themselves to have more unions in their workplaces and individual workers would be rushing to embrace them. If unions had an attractive package to offer employees, unions would not require all of the imbalanced legislative means embodied in this labour legislation before us to extend their presence in the workplace."

According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, "Unions too often leave a trail of devastation in their wake, with worsened productivity, workplace problems, failing competitiveness, labour strife and disheartened workers."

Not only business leaders and workers would be affected; there are many other organizations. Briefly, I want to indicate that the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies has stated that its mandate under the Child and Family Services Act, "To ensure the protection of children and the prevention of circumstances which would require their protection," could be put at risk by the implementation of this legislation.

"While the majority of workers, in this province, for children's aid societies are unionized, the truth and the fact of the matter is that by the government's refusal to allow contracting out and by their requiring all supervisory officers to be a part of the collective bargaining unit, we will not be able to provide those services for high-risk children. These are children who are being sexually assaulted, who have to become wards of the children's aid society. We will not be able to offer them the protection, under law, that they are due."

This government, in a very cavalier fashion, has decided that it is not prepared to make the necessary amendments in order to ensure that those vulnerable children are protected.

I could go on further to talk about vulnerable workers, to go on about some additional concerns about the children's aid societies, but I would go on to further suggest to you that this issue will also have an adverse effect on day care centres, as this government proceeds with its plans to provide universal day care with unionized universal day care in Ontario.

There was sufficient evidence in the hearings on Bill 40 to expose the true agenda, and the non-profit boards, many of which have parents with children in their centres—those

children would be used as bargaining chips and the parents would be intimidated by the process of bargaining.

1620

That, to the members opposite who are snickering, came out in an actual presentation. The rationale from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care indicated very clearly that if parents are not prepared to listen to the concerns of the workers, then they have to deal with the fall-out for thousands of children in this province being sent home with no day care program. Imagine the havoc that will create, predominantly for the women workers in this province who rely on day care.

This legislation unquestionably will cost jobs in this province. It will send a bad message to business investment and to that climate.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): No, you're doing that.

Mr Jackson: I don't have to be the only one. The member indicates I'm doing that. I've quoted extensively from people, from union members, from individuals all across this province who've expressed concern about this legislation. I've only been able, through the courtesy of our party leader through his motion today, to present those concerns in the House.

I urge the NDP to consider new jobs for unemployed workers as their first priority and payoffs to their labour boss friends as their second priority. Judging by the well-noted weak response of the Liberal leader, Lyn McLeod, I urge the Liberals to try and develop some backbone on this legislation and join us in calling for its repeal. The economy can no longer afford political parties and their policies that try to be all things to all people.

My party and my leader, Mike Harris, have made a very clear and decisive decision on this legislation, as evidenced by today's motion in the House. Our first priority for our party is for there to be jobs, economic prosperity and a commitment to Ontario's future prosperity.

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): It is a great pleasure to participate in the debate today because I want to try and deal with some of the rhetoric that we have heard today regarding the impact of Bill 40.

First of all, we've heard that Bill 40 is going to kill jobs and destroy investment in Ontario. We've heard a lot about what goes on in workplaces, how this legislation is going to give unions an unfair advantage in the workplace and how that's going to undermine productivity and successful companies. But from my experience of going around to the companies in my riding and the factories, what I find out is that it's not legislation that makes a company productive or not and motivates a workforce. It's good management. It's participation by the employees, their ability to participate in decision-making, and a receptive management that is open to ideas and participation of the employees.

Let me say about participation that usually it's about how to make the company more competitive and how to save the company money. That is the key: A well-trained, motivated workforce and a company providing a good product or service are the keys to success in this province and in any other jurisdiction.

This legislation isn't going to affect that. This legislation is not going to change that. Some of the rhetoric we've heard is that this is going to kill jobs and investment. That's simply not the case. The only thing that's going to kill jobs is the rhetoric we've been hearing from the opposition to this legislation. I want to be quite clear here that I don't believe all the people opposed to this have been using the harsh rhetoric. I've had some people in who felt they had very legitimate concerns and who, once they had some explanation, felt a little more at ease about the legislation.

Again, I want to talk about the reality. We've heard comments today about how unions are disruptive of the workplace, how they don't do things that are productive towards the economy. I want to cite a couple of examples, first of all, the members of CAW Local 636 who work at the Kelsey-Hayes foundry in Woodstock. That plant has been the recipient of Chrysler's quality award for seven years in a row. That is one of only 14 plants in the entire world that have achieved that. That's why Ontario is a good place to invest. That's how unionized workplaces can be productive and can help and contribute to this economy and to the success of Kelsey-Hayes.

I also want to talk about what I feel is a very innovative approach undertaken by a union that I formerly belonged to, the United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1977. Local 1977 negotiated an education fund with Zehrs Markets several years ago. It started out at one cent an hour, and as many unions do, they have these education funds. Some use them for training of union members and their own development.

UFCW took a rather unique approach and what it did is that it committed that money to an education centre and through a combination of funds—the company contributes to that and the accessing of federal and provincial funds for training—we now have the Clifford Evans Training Centre just outside of Cambridge.

What is really unique about this centre is what occurs. For those who are familiar with the grocery industry, many people get into areas and they don't see a future. So if you're a grocery clerk and the company has a lot of young produce managers, you don't see much a future for you. What you can do is apply, go to the training centre, receive training to be maybe a meat cutter and then come back in and go back working as a produce clerk. If you have the seniority and a job opening comes up for a meat cutter, you can apply for that and you're considered qualified for that job.

I want to tell you what the results of that have been. First of all, they increase employee morale and the workers' morale because they know that they're not in a dead-end job, that they have opportunities for movement.

Not only are they working on those specifics, the education centre has also been working on providing short-term programs for assistant managers about marketing and motivating employees, all the other key, essential elements.

This is a very, very innovative approach, but I want to tell you that this education centre never would have come about if it wasn't for the leadership of the union and of Local 1977. So when we hear the rhetoric here that unions

are disruptive and they're not interested in the outcome or the success of their companies, I think we just have to simply dismiss that.

As we know, not every corporate executive is out there to do in his employees. Many of them have the best interests of the employees. If we're going to be successful, it's going to take partnership, but employees and labour people have to have a voice. Some feel they have to have that within a union.

I still get people coming into my office, even in the last two years, as much as the opposition wants to say that no one's interested in the union, who have concerns in their workplace, who are not unionized and who are seriously considering having a union come in and organize. So not all workplace situations are as ideal as some people may want to think. They've certainly come a long way; there's still a process to go. This is about the ability of people to have the right to join a union, for those people who have been excluded.

I want to summarize again by saying that there are very innovative things that unions are doing out there. They are producing good, quality work. The employees are just as productive. There are even surveys to indicate employee shops are more productive than non-employee shops in terms of manufacturing. I do not see how this legislation is going to kill jobs and investment. It ultimately comes down to how a specific workplace operates, cooperation between the employees, whether they're unionized or non-unionized, and the management.

This legislation is to give people rights, to take us forward and take this province into the next century. Combined with some of the other initiatives we're doing in terms of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board and some of the other cooperative ventures that this government is trying to provide leadership for, both in the public and private sector, Ontario's economy in the long run is going to be far stronger. I encourage everyone to vote against this motion which is strictly rhetoric and let's look at the real facts.

1630

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): It's a pleasure to participate in this debate briefly. I'd like to inquire whether or not the member for Oxford has information that's not available to the rest of the members of the House. He said this will not lose jobs, that he's confident about that. I want to ask the member for Oxford, do you have an independent study that was done for you privately and not for the rest of the government? Because we're told there was no independent study done, and you're just relying on a good guess that this will have no impact whatsoever on the job situation in this province.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): That's not for him to prove.

Mr Callahan: No, but he said that he believes, and strongly believes, that there will be no job loss.

Mr Mammoliti: They're guessing. You're guessing. You prove it.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for Brampton South has the floor.

Mr Callahan: He obviously has to have some independent information, so I'd like to know if the member for Oxford has done a private study. If it's worthwhile, we'd like to take a look at it, because nobody else in the government has done it. A couple of other members over there say, "He doesn't have to prove it." Yes, you do. You're the government. You're the people who are introducing this legislation, saying, "Don't worry about it, Ontario, the job situation will not get any worse."

The fact is that there are 581,000 people out of work, and that's when this note was printed; it's probably higher than that now. The fact is that there were 265,000 more unemployed since September 1990, and that since September 1990, 242 plants have closed. Between the start of this January and the end of May, another 63 facilities shut their doors.

British Columbia, which also has a socialist government, did something similar to what you're doing. But if you followed the news reports of it, British Columbia was able to come to terms with the business community because they had hearings, meaningful hearings, not the 11 orchestrated hearings that the Minister of Labour tried to jam down the public's throat. So that was your first mistake.

Two mistakes: The first mistake was that there is no independent study to determine what impact this will have on the province of Ontario; the second mistake was they just cut off total communication with the other parties.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. Order. The member for Brampton South has the floor. Please respect that.

Mr Callahan: Thank you, Mr Speaker. What they failed to do was to maintain that balance, that very important balance between labour and business. Let's face it: You can talk about unionization and making it easy to be unionized and so on, but if there are no jobs, then there are no unions. It's like love and marriage: They go together like a horse and carriage; you know, that old song.

The last time I spoke in this House, I asked the Minister of Labour if he would undertake to take this legislation back or revisit it at some stage down the line if it were proven after a year or so, or six months, that job loss became even greater than the 581,000 people out of work already. If that were the case, then I could respect his judgement; at least the man would be looking after the people of Ontario in a sensitive way. He wouldn't give me that undertaking. Some people may say that it was naïve to ask the minister for that, because the minister is so committed to the unionization of the totality of Ontario that he can't see beyond his own nose.

What we have, number one, is a government that doesn't listen. The orchestrated hearings were nothing near what they were in British Columbia. Perhaps that's the reason the former chairman of Hydro left here to go to British Columbia. Maybe he found that he couldn't communicate with this government because it didn't want to listen to anything and decided it was better to go to British Columbia, where perhaps the atmosphere was a little clearer.

I might also add that I made a pitch for the farmers on the last occasion. I really find it passing strange that the Minister of Labour still wishes to retain within the act the ability, by regulation, to literally unionize the farmers. He promises them: "Well, Mr Farmer, don't worry about it. We're going to take that portion out that allows us by regulation to look after your union needs, and we're going to enact a separate piece of legislation."

If he's saying what he really means, then I suggest, why would he not bring in at least a white paper on that, let us see it, let the farmers see it? Why would he not wait and respond to the meetings that the farm community had? He doesn't want to do that, because what he's got right now over in that legislation is the most draconian section dealing with farmers. Because a regulation, as we here in the House know, is simply cabinet saying: "Fiat. Let it be done." It never gets to the floor of the Legislature; nobody ever gets to debate it. It's kind of like the casinos, that when Madam Churley of the casino, and now sports lotteries and bookie joints, decides she wants to bring that forth, it's done by regulation. The people of this province surely understand that casinos were brought in by the cabinet without any consultation or any debate on the floor of this House. And the farmers of this province should understand that's exactly the power the minister will have if this bill is passed.

In fact, the farmers have been shafted. They're going to find that there may very well be no legislation brought in. They'll simply be ruled by edict, and that's a very unfair situation for the farmers, particularly when one recognizes that the commitment of the New Democratic Party, which is now the government, to farmers and farm land has been shattered.

Look at the Minister of the Environment: she looks at farm land as being a place to put garbage. And yet, in the days when they were in opposition, farm land was sacrosanct. No one dared to touch farm land. They were against farm land being developed, and now that's the Minister of the Environment's alternative to the 3Rs: Just plunk it into some rich farm land. I can assure you that every one of those sites being looked at by the Minister of the Environment is class A farm land.

I guess one of the things I learned when I first came down here in 1985 was that every piece of legislation the present government—at that time the opposition—every time it tried to amend a bill, speak to a bill or lobby against a bill, it was to increase the span of unionization. One would say, why is that? There's nothing wrong with unions: Unions are important to a fair balance between labour and business. But why were they always so directed towards making sure they could increase and enhance union activities?

I have to say this: We all know that by check-off, by resolution of the unions, they can in fact direct the funds, the check-off moneys that are taken, without any consideration by the workers themselves, from their pay—they're required to pay it—and it's paid to the New Democratic Party.

I suggested on one occasion—and I still think it's true, although we have not had a legal opinion or any legal

advice on it—that section 41 of the Legislative Assembly Act, which reads as follows:

“No member of the assembly shall knowingly accept or receive, either directly or indirectly,” and I underline that, “any fee, compensation or reward for or in respect of the drafting, advising upon, revising, promoting or opposing any bill, resolution, matter or thing submitted or intended to be submitted to the assembly or a committee thereof.”

They are doing it directly or indirectly, I suggest, because in fact the net result of this will be mass unionization—if there are any jobs left to unionize—and in fact more money into the coffers of the NDP for purposes of a war chest in fighting the next election.

I suggest to you that they are in fact in contravention of section 41 of the Legislative Assembly Act. The Legislative Assembly Act, if I'm correct, provides for the whole bunch of them to be prosecuted. It also provides for them to lose their seats. If anyone out there in the business world is listening, I suggest you go out and get an independent legal opinion as to whether or not section 41 does constitute a mandate that cannot be breached by the present government. If that's the case, then Bill 40 should never have been passed, and they're simply, as it were, feathering their nests.

I only have one further item, because there are other members who wish to speak: It's with the Ontario Nurses' Association. I find it really remarkable that the nurses of this province, who are the care givers and the people who are there when you need them when you're ill, who work hard, who are devoted to their profession, and wanted not to be lumped into the particular union suggested by the government but wanted to be independent, that they couldn't have it, because the Ontario Federation of Labour, I think it was, indicated it didn't want it.

Who's running this government? Who runs that place over there? Is it Bob White? Is it the Gord Wilsons? Is it the union executive? Who runs the place? I know while the Premier is away it will probably be run by Bob White, or perhaps Frances Lankin, but in any event, one has to wonder about that.

1640

The nurses, who contacted my office and I'm sure contacted the offices of many of the members of the Legislature, made what I thought was a very reasonable request. They're being denied that. They're being denied it simply because the OFL decided it didn't want them to have it.

I wonder if that really makes one comfortable and safe, as a person in this province, if in fact the policies that are made over there can be applied or not applied depending on the whim or the will of Bob White and the Gord Wilsons of the world and so on. I always thought democracy meant that the people who are elected made those decisions, but I guess somehow that's not the case any more.

Having just made a few of those observations, I believe that the motion being brought today is certainly one that deserves support. When one looks at, finally, the one telling clause of true democracy is a secret ballot. It's gone. That seems to me to be a very strange thing for a so-called

New Democratic Party that, in today's newspaper, says it is related to Clinton, to the Democrats in the United States. I doubt very much that you'd find the Democratic Party in the United States agreeing that there should not be a secret ballot, that when you went in to vote, you had to raise your hand or whatever. That's what you people are doing.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Do you think the Americans would tolerate socialism?

Mr Callahan: I doubt that. That's certainly questionable, because I think the Americans got rid of socialism in eastern Europe. They reduced it back to the capital system. But somehow the message has not quite got to Queen's Park over that. They still think that what was going on in eastern Europe is going on.

Having said that, I would like to say that this opposition day motion is in order and should be supported. I'm looking forward to it being supported by some of those independent members in the government; I'm sure we will see some of them stand up and vote against this. I can't believe that members of the New Democratic Party would possibly—

Mr Mahoney: Fairminded.

Mr Callahan: That's right, fairminded people. They'll be voting with us, I think. Your constituents will be very pleased when you do that. If you don't do it, what's going to happen is that you'll stay alive until 1995, and in 1995 you'll be looking for another place to rest your hat, a comfortable job, no heavy lifting, out of the rain. But you'll be right back into heavy lifting and out in the rain.

I want to thank you, Mr Chair, for having had an opportunity to put some comments on the record on this bill. It's called a labour bill. I suggest to you, Mr Chair, as I said before, that if there are no jobs, there can't be any unions, so in fact it's an anti-labour bill.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This subject is a large one, and I wish I had considerably more time to address the many issues that have been raised by my constituents and by our critic for Labour. However, I would like to make a number of comments on this occasion.

First of all, the public hearings on Bill 40 were a sham. On September 3, the public hearings on Bill 40 ended. Over the course of five weeks, the committee heard from 240 delegations, but a larger number of Ontarians did not have a voice, as over 1,200 people applied to make a presentation. The NDP members of the committee repeatedly defeated opposition motions that would have extended the number of weeks of public hearings.

Submission after submission warned the government that changes to the Labour Relations Act would have a negative impact on investment and job creation. The ban on the use of replacement workers will threaten the future viability of sectors from food processing to auto parts manufacturing to newspapers.

Our PC Labour critic, Elizabeth Witmer, addressed the concerns expressed during the summer public hearings by tabling 94 amendments to the bill. The government only allowed time to debate on the first 32 amendments and defeated the rest without comment. The Liberals, on the other hand, only tabled 15 amendments during the committee

deliberations and surprisingly failed to introduce a single amendment regarding the use of replacement workers.

There's no doubt what the NDP agenda is. It is clear that the Bob Rae government is committed to an agenda of expanding union power in the province. Many of the proposals are directed at facilitating unionization of the retail and service sectors. The government's own documentation reveals that 19.1% of the employees in the private sector are unionized. Trade union density in the retail sector is 10.1%, while in the financial service sector, it is only 1.5%. Organized labour has been frustrated in its attempt to unionize Ontario's expanded service sector. The NDP is going to ensure that its union friends get in. After all, they will receive increased revenues for the NDP via the union checkoff.

I like the quote from James Noonan of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto, who said: "Personally, I sort of take it as a barometer of what the intentions of the government are and whether its purported objective in this legislation is bona fide. Is this labour reform or nothing more than a political payoff to its union constituency?" I think the answer to that is self-evident.

Unlike the Liberal Party, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party under Michael Harris is more opposed to this legislation than anything. We believe there will never be a right time for this one-sided legislation, the way the Liberals are talking about it. Our motto is, "Stay Alive Till '95." A Harris government will repeal this legislation and restore the balance between the interests of labour and management in Ontario.

Our party also has another proposal, and that is to democratize the unions. On November 7, 1991, our Labour critic introduced a private member's bill, Bill 152, calling for a secret ballot vote in all cases for certification, ratification of a collective agreement and a decision to strike. Mr Rae should note that BC and Alberta have a necessity for a vote. It works for Michael Harcourt. Why can't it work for Mr Rae?

Another concern I have with this legislation is the third-party picketing. People do not really realize that there is the right for another person to organize, solicit and picket, to go on another person's property. Anyone can be lined up to represent a union. Section 11.1 says, "Employees and persons acting on behalf of a trade union have the right to be present on premises...." That means you don't even have to be a union member on strike. They can come along and get someone else to do the picketing for them.

This whole bill offends the Trespass to Property Act. For the first time in any jurisdiction in Canada, the rights of third-party property owners will be subject to the union's right to organize and picket. Such a revolutionary departure from the present state of the law is an unjustified intrusion on what has been considered a fundamental right. Bill 40 violates the rights of property owners and innocent customers. Businesses that share retail space but are not party to the labour dispute will have their businesses negatively affected. There is no definition of permissible picketing behaviour. The cabinet submission refused to include peaceful picketing.

This government doesn't understand what replacement workers can do and are within the workplace. This proposal will tilt the economic balance of power in favour of unions. The limitations on the number of employees who can perform struck work will impede the ability of an employer to continue the operation of a plant and fill orders to maintain customer goodwill. In essence, a strike will become an economic blockade. Employees cannot cross a picket line to return to work, even if they do not agree with their union representatives. A single parent struggling to raise a family could not return to work. This is a significant intrusion into employee freedoms.

Quebec has had more strikes or lockouts than Ontario in 12 of the 14 years since Quebec's anti-scab law was implemented in 1978, even though it has fewer people and a smaller economy. Ontario, on the other hand, has had fewer strikes, due to a balance between the employees' rights to go on strike and the employer's right to continue operation during a strike.

I will vote against this bill, I will fight this bill and I will fight the New Democrats as long as this is a bill and a law in the province of Ontario. It stinks and they stink too.

1650

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable government whip and member for Niagara South.

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio): It is my pleasure to rise today in response to the opposition day motion put forth by the leader of the third party. I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the contents of the motion and to state that I could not disagree more strongly with the position taken by the leader and the members of the Progressive Conservative Party.

I am very proud of this legislation and all that it stands for and all that it will mean to working men and women here in Ontario. Our party took office with a mandate for change and the stated intention to promote fairness and equity for all people in Ontario. Bill 40 is only one piece of that fairness agenda, which commits government to improving social justice and addressing the unfairness to people here in Ontario. Our commitment to fairness stretches beyond the workplace. It touches all aspects of people's lives, providing Ontarians with an opportunity to share in the wealth and potential that is all ours here in this great province.

Our government implemented amendments to the Support and Custody Orders Enforcement Act. We implemented reform to the family support act and other initiatives, all of which help individuals become financially independent and are key to the fight to end poverty for men, women and children.

The leader of the third party and the opposition Liberals attempt to paint Bill 40 as the great payback to the union bosses of this province. By their words and their actions they demean these duly elected union representatives and they show utter disrespect for labour's contributions here in the province of Ontario.

The member for Nipissing professes to support workers' rights, yet his statements here in the very House and in the media pit one group against the other: union workers

against management. That attitude can no longer be accepted here in Ontario if we are to realize our full economic and social potential.

The member for Nipissing yesterday presented every cabinet minister with a brick. He said that those bricks were from businesses destroyed by our government's commitment to Bill 40. I argue that those bricks more or less came from his own wall, the wall that he's building around himself, a wall of mistrust that is dividing workers and employers in this province.

The opposition portrays Bill 40 as an attempt to tip the balance between unions and working people. They feel we're giving too much to the unions. They ignore the true intent of this legislation, which is to give workers input into workplace decisions that affect their livelihoods and those of their families and their children.

The leader's attempt to paint Bill 40 as a threat to jobs and investment only serves to frighten people and drive away potential investment here in the province. With that rhetoric, this can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you repeat a false story often enough, regrettably it's bound to be believed by some people.

I have experienced the workplace cooperation which Bill 40 is intended to create. Just recently in my Port Colborne constituency office I had an opportunity to address the real issues confronting business in a full partnership with a business owner, a labourer and a union representative. This is the kind of cooperation that will be needed if Ontario is to succeed in a competitive global economy. This is the kind of cooperation that Bill 40 will foster.

The leader of the third party pledges to repeal Bill 40 if given the opportunity to form a future future. My question to him is, why? Why would he seek to eliminate fairness? Why would he seek to eliminate equity, which we all agree is essential if Ontario is to compete on the global stage?

In their opposition to Bill 40 the opposition parties attempt to lay Ontario's current economic difficulties at our feet. Not only is that unfair; that is untrue. The difficult times we are experiencing right now in this province were not created by this government, nor are they isolated to just Ontario. One only has to watch the nightly newscasts to see similar and, in some cases, even worse scenarios in the United States, Great Britain and even Japan.

Promoting the economy and creating jobs are priorities of our government. Ontario has a highly skilled and flexible workplace and workforce, which is so important. It has access to major markets and natural resources. It is an attractive place to do business, to invest in.

Labour reform will not change that. It will build on all of these good things by increasing the cooperation and innovation needed to get this province going again.

I am very proud of Bill 40. I'm sure that Joe and Josephine Ontario, listening to this show out there, want Bill 40, and I'm proud to be part of the government that is going to pass it through.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: What scares me is that the former speaker really is proud of Bill 40. If nothing else, there is some sincerity there and that probably worries our party more than anything.

I understand from my time in government how a government, how a cabinet, how a cabinet minister, how someone in a back room perhaps can draft a piece of legislation and they bring it in and they sort of whip it on the men and women in the caucus and give you the orders and the justification for it. I understand that. I saw that happen. I openly admit that.

It's something within our system, frankly, that bothers me as a parliamentarian. I don't think it should happen in my party or the Tory party or this particular government, but it does happen. The fact that there is very little dissent within the government party really gives proof to the fact that that's simply what has happened here.

I was interested in the comments in the shouting that took place where one of the members opposite said that everyone's guessing. That's another thing that bothers the Liberal Party greatly about Bill 40: Clearly, the government is guessing.

Mr Mammoliti: No, I said you're guessing.

Mr Mahoney: We know that the minister has not completed one credible study—as the member harps over there—examining the impact of this bill.

In fact, I have a letter—I don't have it in my possession, but it's upstairs in my office—from a constituent who wrote a letter to Bob Mackenzie last April and said that he wanted some information on behalf of a client in the United States who wrote and said, "Before I do business with you, I want to know the impact of Bill 40 on our business relationship."

This minister wrote back in June and actually said—in fairness, since I don't have the letter, I'll paraphrase it—that he did not know what the impact of Bill 40 would be on that business. This Labour minister admitted that last June.

Mr Hayes: Go get the letter.

Mr Mahoney: I've shown the minister the letter; I don't have to go get it. I can produce it if I need to, but he actually said in writing that he had no idea what the impact of Bill 40 would be on this person's business.

I could understand if some of the members on the back bench over there had to admit that, because they have people snapping at their ankles all over the place and maybe they haven't had time to do the homework to understand the impact. But for the Minister of Labour—Mr Speaker, can you imagine that, the Minister of Labour, one of your own colleagues?—to openly admit in a written letter to a resident of this province that he has no idea what the impact of this legislation would be, I find that really irresponsible.

Mr Mammoliti: I want to see it now.

Mr Mahoney: I'll show it to you later, George, if you can stay around. I'll read it to you, just in case you're unable to read it.

One of the things I find interesting too is how I've heard members opposite try to pin the blame for the negative reaction on the opposition. If that wasn't—

1700

Mr Mammoliti: Will you read it slowly?

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Order, please.

Mr Mahoney: I'll give you crayons too if you want that.

If the negative reaction was simply coming from the benches of the opposition, then maybe I could understand it. Are you suggesting that the Canadian Federation of Independent Business is just a bunch of rednecks? Are you suggesting that? Your Premier said, when you people won office, that you were going to be the government of all the people, I say to the Minister of Health.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Except you.

Mr Mahoney: Except me. I can understand that, I say to the Minister of Housing, and thank God, because I'm not really interested in you people doing anything for me, let me tell you that. But you're supposed to be the government for all the people, so you dismiss the Canadian Federation of Independent Business as a bunch of rednecks. Their concerns don't matter to you.

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): You said that.

Mr Mahoney: No, well, that's how you're acting. You're pretending that all the opposition to Bill 40 only comes from the leader of the third party or members of my caucus. That's absolute nonsense. The opposition, the fear and the concern is coming from the entire community. I wish you'd come and read some of the mail I get. These aren't from rednecks. These aren't from extremists. These aren't from right-wingers. These are from people who work in the labour movement, who work in plants and on factory floors, who are worried that their business—you can shake your head, but it's true—that they worked for is going to go out of business, and they're not seeing any indication that you're going to try to help them.

Mr Mammoliti: People like you are guessing.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Mahoney: It's a little bit like the old story: If it ain't broke don't fix it.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Mr Speaker, get them in order.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Mahoney: I can handle him. Don't worry about him. If George doesn't heckle me, I sort of run out of things to say. He helps me when he does that.

I want to read from a document from the Ministry of Labour. Here is what they say. The government's brought in some amendments and announced with great fanfare that these amendments were going to do wonderful things. With the purpose clause, which is a clause that outlines the purpose of this bill, they want to enact a new purpose clause that would reflect the underlying objectives of the act—now get this—and ensure that workers can freely

organize. Don't they have that right now? I'm puzzled by this.

I remember in the 1960s—the member for Sudbury East was here a minute ago—going along with my dad up to Sudbury when the Steelworkers were leading a little minor raid on the Mine, Mill union to take over some of the union dues; they wanted the dough. There was a clear right to freely organize. They didn't need some provincial government to come along with new amendments that gave them the right so that they could freely organize. It's amazing.

Then it says they want to encourage collective bargaining. How many years has collective bargaining been in place? Most of the people on the government benches have made their living one way or another involved in the collective bargaining process in this province and in this country. Why do you need to pass legislation to allow for collective bargaining to take place?

I don't understand it. The people in this province don't understand it. If it ain't broke, George, don't fix it. Leave it alone. That's the trouble. You guys get in there and you've got some debts you owe to Leo Gerard and to Bob White and to Gord Wilson and to some of these folks. Minister, you know that's true. You have these commitments to these people, who we see sitting in your cabinet office with their feet up on the desk giving you orders. We know that's happening.

So you bring in something that's going to allow people to freely organize. What radical legislation. My goodness. It's a good thing you got elected, because before you folks came along, no one could freely organize in the province of Ontario and there was no such thing as collective bargaining.

Then just to point out the absolute ludicrous examples that your own minister gives, he says in the purpose clause he wants to promote harmonious labour relations. I tell you, have you ever seen anything, I ask you, that promotes harmonious labour legislation like Bill 40? Aren't we a happy bunch of campers in Ontario? The business community is just lining up outside Bob Rae's door waving goodbye and handing him a little flower as he gets on the plane to go to Japan.

Why do you think he's going there, by the way? Why do you think he's going to Japan? He's going over there—it's called damage control—not because Ed Philip just got back, with respect to Ed, but because the international investment community, like the person I referred to in the letter that Bob Mackenzie wrote back on, particularly in the Pacific Rim, is very concerned.

They want to know, "Why are you doing this?" not because—trust me—in Hong Kong and in Japan they don't watch question period. So you can pretend—at least not this one; they don't watch this one, so they don't think: "Oh, the opposition members are upset. That's why we're afraid to invest in Ontario." They don't care, frankly, what you say or what we say. What they're concerned about is what the international bankers say, what the international investment people say, what the business community says?

They do read the press from time to time and they analyse things and they go, "Why is this socialist government, at a

time throughout the world when we see socialism falling, why is this socialist government"—I recognize that you call yourself "democratic socialists." I understand that. You sort of couch it and you bring in the democratic aspect. How democratic can you possibly be when you refuse to allow—get this, Mr Speaker—a secret ballot? This should be just the New Party, not the New Democratic Party. How can the word "democratic"—

Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: Margaret, please.

Why wouldn't you allow a secret ballot?

Interjections.

Mr Mahoney: I hear some of the members in the Tory caucus spouting off about how the Liberals only put 15 amendments or something. But let me tell you, who is the one who was speaking in the committee meetings? It was the member for Mississauga North. The member for Mississauga North put an amendment—very interesting. Somebody over there has got to explain to me why you would vote against this. You know that currently it's 45% to unionize, the vote. These people want to reduce it to 40%. Mr Offer, the critic for our party for the Labour ministry, put an amendment to reduce the percentage requirement down to 30%. He only had one condition: He wanted it to be a democratic secret ballot. Guess what? The government members of the committee voted it down. It is unbelievable.

The people in the labour movement should be saying, "What are you guys, nuts? We had the opposition agreeing to a 30% requirement for accreditation and you voted it down. Why? Don't you trust us to vote in a secret ballot? Don't you trust the men and women on the shop floor who you're trying to get unionized so that you can get them in to check off, so that you can get more money for your party? Don't you trust them? You see, if they decide they don't want to be unionized, shouldn't they have that right instead of this minister saying he wants to ensure that workers can freely organize?"

How about, "Workers can freely not organize?" Do you think that's fair? How about if the workers can say: "Sorry, I don't want to do this. I'm quite happy. We have a good working relationship in our small business. We're quite happy with the operation. He or she treats us fair. He or she pays us good wages. They give us good holidays. They give us good benefits. I have a pension. I don't need to be organized. Do I not have the choice in a secret ballot?"

Those of you who have been involved in the labour movement know that the majority of people involved in the labour movement are good, decent people; no question about that. There is always the possibility, however, and I've seen it first hand, that there can be some bullying going on, that there can be—

Hon Mr Wildman: Oh, oh.

Mr Mahoney: Well, I say to the minister, I grew up in an atmosphere where there was a lot of bullying going on, let me tell you. Many times there would be arm-twisting, there would be cajoling, there would even be threats.

In The Sudbury Incident—get the book and read the book, The Sudbury Incident. I can tell you the member for

Sudbury East has read it because her dad is even in that book. Get that book and read it. It talks about the intimidation tactics in that particular raid.

Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: Elie.

This can happen. What you're doing is that you're opening this up by passing legislation that takes away any right or does not provide a right, in fairness, for a secret ballot to take place on this issue. You are opening up the potential for abuse, and it's so blatantly contrary to everything that you have ever stood for as a party. As my colleague the member for St Catharines said the other day, "I used to have respect for this party, but they've just thrown all their principles out the door." Why have you done it?

1710

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): You mean the NDP of course; you're talking about the NDP.

Mr Mahoney: I'm talking about the NDP. As Mr Bradley said, I used to have respect for the NDP, but that was when they were in opposition and they could just stand up and spout off and say whatever they wanted and pretend they had principles, and then go to a policy conference and stand up and make all these new principles, that, 'Oh, this is what we're going to do if we ever get in power,' never believing for one minute that they would ever get elected. Let's face it, Premier "Bookie" Bob was the most shocked person in the province when he became the Premier of this province; I don't think there's any question. So now the principles go out the door, out the window, and away they go.

Let me just tell you one of the things that I think the public should understand very clearly. This legislation is so—the word "draconian" probably doesn't do service to it, but it's so frightful that the government understood the only way it could possibly get this through was if it changed the rules of debate in this particular Legislature. They knew that if they operated under the rules that existed when we were the government of the day, there would be a filibuster to end all filibusters. Mr Kormos would be stricken from the record books for his filibuster on auto insurance. He would be replaced, I can suggest, by people in both parties who would go on for days expressing concern about the damage to the economy in this great province of Ontario.

So what did they do? They brought in rule changes.

Hon Mr Wildman: They wouldn't filibuster; it would just be a full debate.

Mr Mahoney: You can say it's a full debate. If it's a full debate, why are we on time allocation? If it's a full debate, why is it that tomorrow at 6 of the clock in this Legislature there will be a vote that will be carried unanimously by your side of the House and voted against unanimously by this side of the House? That is what you call full debate? That is what you call full parliamentary procedure? You have invoked time allocation that is ramming this bill down our throats, and we have our hands tied behind our backs.

The Conservative Party have been going around telling people that they're prepared to filibuster. I've yet to hear it.

I don't know how they're going to do it. The rules don't allow it. We're limited to 30 minutes and then we're cut off, that's the end. In fact, you turn the mike off. You're the guy with the plug. You just pull the plug, the microphone goes off, Mr Speaker—not him personally, but the person in that chair—and it's over. Debate's over. You don't care.

Mr Mammoliti: I don't want to hear you for more than 30 minutes.

Mr Mahoney: I know you don't want to hear. That's why you did it. You don't want to hear the objections. The Labour Minister, who is here, doesn't understand the impact on the business community. He's said so in writing. The Premier's taking off tomorrow or the next day to Japan at a time when we're in a crisis in this province of unprecedented proportions, at a time—

Interjections.

Mr Mahoney: Well, I realize you're just out of school and you don't understand this stuff, but those are the facts. Unfortunately, we can stand here and we can call for you to stop this bill, but we know you're not going to do it. Let me tell you, folks, you will live to regret this decision.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm very pleased to rise in support of the motion put forward this afternoon by the leader of the Ontario PC Party, Mike Harris.

The motion, among other things, calls upon the government to scrap Bill 40. One of the fundamental reasons for that is that Bill 40, the NDP's labour law reforms, does not provide for a fundamental right of workers to a secret ballot vote for certification, ratification of collective agreement and the decision to strike. Bill 40 must be scrapped.

As the previous Liberal member correctly pointed out, we could spend all afternoon, as we are, giving our opinions to the government in trying to get them to change their minds. But since they're not listening to me or my colleagues in the Ontario PC Party or to some of the members of the Liberal Party, who have now been converted and share our belief that Bill 40 should be scrapped, I want to read what some of my constituents have said.

Tim Fryer, who's president of the Collingwood Chamber of Commerce, wrote to me in June regarding Bill 40. He writes:

"The Collingwood Chamber of Commerce has grave concerns regarding the government's proposed legislation to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, Bill 40.

"We believe that Bill 40 may have a devastating affect on our community. Our business community is trying to survive the worst economic conditions in decades. We are attempting to become more competitive and productive. The bill does absolutely nothing to help us in our efforts to ensure the viability of our business community and the future employment of the workers of the town of Collingwood."

Mr Don Hoy of Tottenham, who is employed by Hoechst Canada, writes:

"I am a member of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Printing Industries Association. The Canadian printing industry employs some 30,000 workers in the province of Ontario. We are a service industry to all other sectors of

the Ontario economy. As these sectors prosper or fail, so do we.

"I am deeply concerned at the focus the NDP government has in proceeding with a radical overhaul of the Labour Relations Act. It is very clear from the broad response from the business community to date that there is widespread opposition to the implementation of these reforms. My own association's submission concerning this matter could not find one proposal it was able to endorse.

"Let's stop wasting our energy fighting over a large piece of rapidly decreasing pie and focus instead on creating an economic climate conducive to investment and job creation."

Steve Montgomery of Schuller Photography in Collingwood writes:

"There is no way in a democratic society that unions should be given more power than the owners of the business. The rights of the workers and the businesses will be handed on a silver platter to the money-hungry unions if the proposed legislation is passed. Talk about job security—that's what union leaders are hoping for in return for years of NDP financial support."

Noel and Beverlee Black of Alliston wrote to me last January, pleading with me to bring some common sense to this government. They write:

"We take this opportunity, as concerned residents of Ontario and as citizens of Canada, to protest the ludicrous proposal to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act. As if the country in general and this province in particular are not in enough trouble, who in their right mind would set out to repay favours or try to garner them at the expense of human suffering?

"Mr Rae, who to my knowledge has never put in an average working man's day in his life, is setting out to create a sunset for a once proud province. 'Let them eat cake.' It must have been a relative of Premier Bob's who said that. She was not aware either of the plight and discontent of the people in the real world."

The Teeples from Tottenham write:

"We are partners in a small construction business which employs a unionized workforce. We have almost 20 years of experience dealing with unions and have never encountered any situation which would require the draconian changes proposed by the NDP government. This government should concentrate on stimulating business activity, creating consumer confidence, creating new jobs and allowing our business community to remain competitive and productive. They should not be inventing solutions to problems which do not exist.

"We all see the revisions for what they are: paybacks to large unions for their support of the NDP. 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it': words to live by. Start by scrapping the proposed revisions to the Ontario Labour Relations Act."

That's exactly what the motion calls for the government to do and exactly what the motion says to the public that we will do if the Ontario PCs form the next government. We will scrap Bill 40.

Since they don't believe the business community, perhaps they'll believe one of the workers. Marg Brown of Collingwood writes:

"I do not want to be forced to belong to a union without choice. Current changes to the Labour Relations Act would almost guarantee no more choice to me. If I can't imagine working under this legislation, I can imagine how owners and investors must feel. If there are to be changes, let's make them fairer for us, the people. Talk to us; get our views." Something the government hasn't done.

Finally, Janet Field of Loretto writes:

"At a time when the world is moving towards a balanced society, I find it incomprehensible that your government should be so blatantly attempting to influence the labour-management scene with legislation so union-biased. I feel as a business person and a taxpayer that you should be reminded of your election promises"—she's referring to the NDP government—"to represent all Ontario citizens, not just those covered by union agreements. These labour reforms mean more economic pain for my constituents and for people all across Ontario."

1720

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): I rise to speak once again on the issue of Bill 40 and the fact that I think this resolution introduced by the third party opposition will and should be defeated. Let me tell you why, Mr Speaker.

The first part of the resolution states, "Bill 40 will kill jobs and destroy investment in Ontario." I look at my community of Brantford and what's been happening since the last recession of 1981-82, throughout the 1980s when we had the boom time, the implications of the free trade agreement on our industries in Brantford. We've had tough times. No denying it, I think Brantford is one of the hardest-hit communities anywhere in Ontario with the plants that we've lost: the Masseys and Whites in the boom years of the 1980s, when the then governments, the Conservatives and Liberals, turned their backs on the workers of the Masseys and Whites and said, "No, we're not going to help you."

American Healthcare, Chicago Raw Hide, Maple Leaf Foods, Protein Foods and Koehring Waterous, the oldest industry in Brantford—all gone. They're not gone because of Bill 40; they've left or closed up because of the economy, because of receivership, because of corporate rationalization and because of free trade.

The member for Brampton South said, "Give me some proof of where investment and jobs are being created." Again, I'm not going to speak for the rest of Ontario, and the Fords and the Chryslers and the Du Ponts and their billions of dollars of investments that are coming, but my own community of Brantford. The member for Brampton South said he wanted proof. In my community we have Gates Canada, one of the largest employers now in Brantford, what used to be called a medium-sized company.

In April, during the height of Bill 40 and the debate in the public eye, in the public domain, that was occurring, Gates invested \$4 million in the plant in Brantford. An addition \$8 million has come since then because of the success of that first investment. All this during the heightened debate on Bill 40. Gates Canada is an American-owned company whose head office is in Denver, Colorado. The directors made the decision to invest those millions in

the plant in Brantford even though Bill 40 was being debated.

BASF, a German multinational, invested \$6 million into the plant in Brantford to enhance safety and to establish a warehouse in its manufacturing plant so that it can expand production. They're looking at expanding their production lines as well. This is a German company, and this investment was made during the heightened debate on Bill 40.

Keeprite—you've all heard about Keeprite; I've mentioned it many times in here—a Canadian-owned company, made the decision to close a plant in America—Redbudd, Illinois—and move the production lines to my community of Brantford. We anticipate doubling employment over the next five years at their site in Brantford. All this during the debate of Bill 40.

The most recent, Western Foundry, bought a foundry that was in receivership, retooled it, invested millions into it and has recently had the grand opening. It hired 90 employees into this plant. They have great expectations.

The key, I think, is that all these plants are unionized. All these plants have different ownership—local, Canadian, American and German—and they all made the decision to invest. The member for Brampton South said he wanted proof. There is some proof in my community of Brantford.

The second part of this resolution says, "Bill 40 ignores the rights of individual workers by not legislating a secret ballot vote for certification, ratification of a collective agreement and the decision to strike." That's an incorrect wording, because with the updating of the labour act there is a secret ballot provision before workers can go on strike and for certifying collective bargaining, for agreeing to a collective agreement. There is a section in there for a secret ballot.

The member for Markham made a comment that I believe said, "What's good for Michael Harcourt and the New Democratic government in BC should be good enough for Ontario." Let me tell you what Michael Harcourt and the BC government brought in with their labour reform. They used to have the secret ballot for certification, no matter what percentage of union cards were signed, and they said: "That's not working. It's wrong." What did they do? They brought in the same certification process that we have in Ontario.

So I hope the member for Markham can support us on that aspect, because the BC government has said it's wrong. Do you know who supported them? It was labour and it was business. It was one of the consensus agreements that was reached during the issue of labour reform in BC. They said, "It's working in Ontario." What they had in BC wasn't working and they were going to change it, and that's what they did.

Lastly, I think the last part of their resolution, that we "repeal Bill 40 following the next election," is a sad commentary on the blinkers that the third party, the Conservative Party, has as it perceives how today's economy functions. To them I say, this is 1992, not the 1950s, not the 1960s. Unfortunately, the attitude they have is going to result in the next election guaranteeing that they're going

to remain the third party and that the political battleground will once again be between the Liberals and the New Democrats.

The resolution here was ill thought out and inaccurate. As a result, I don't think anyone in this House should be supporting it.

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): This afternoon I wish to address the Conservative resolution, which claims that Bill 40 "will kill jobs and destroy investment in Ontario." I want to make the intent of this bill clear to the people of Ontario, because Mr Harris has maligned the intent of this bill.

In the past, labour and management have been in adversarial positions. Big unions and big companies were primarily male domains of power, where unions fought against employers and the employers sought to control the employees. The time has come for this to end.

It is more than coincidence that both sides are now realizing the need for cooperation during a recession. Survival certainly is a strong motivator. Cooperation is the way of the future. We have only to look around to Europe and to Japan to realize that economic success is related to the input of workers to the workplace. Very often, employees have key suggestions and information on how to do things better, smarter and more efficiently, and employers who are successful know, value and respect one of the key parts of their business: their workers. This is what this legislation is all about.

Last February, in Niagara Falls, the Niagara Region Development Corp held a two-day conference at the Americana Inn on Lundy's Lane, and it was entitled Innovation in Niagara Business: The Way of the Future. While I was there, I heard three local companies explain their success, and all three stated that the involvement and commitment of their workers was very important to their success. They gave examples of profit-sharing and the very close involvement of their workforce. This is very clearly the way to go.

This bill updates labour relations after many years. No longer are we a male, full-time, heavy-industry economy in this province. We are also women, part-time workers and immigrants. Don't these workers have the right to decide if they wish to form a union? This legislation, for reasons of equality, extends this right to them.

This past year at the opening of an Austrian manufacturer's new plant in Niagara Falls, I spoke to the owner, who was from Europe. They are distributing heavy equipment to all of North America from this location very close to the border. What I asked this manufacturer and owner from Europe was, "Why did you locate on this side of the river as opposed to the other side?" What he said to me was: "We as Europeans would rather locate in Canada than the US. We feel more comfortable with the way of life here, your way of doing business, your social programs and your culture." We have a lot to be proud of in this country and we must strengthen our highly skilled, flexible and dedicated workforce. That is what this bill is about, to strengthen.

1730

Mr Harris, in his opening remarks this afternoon, said, "Motives are suspect." I believe that the people of Ontario who have been subjected for the many past months to extremely warped, misleading full-page newspaper advertising will judge whose motives are suspect. The people of Ontario, I believe, can judge quite adequately what is reasonable and what is rational and I believe the people of this province can tell what is irrational. I say that the position of the Conservative Party is going to be proved irrational.

The motives and intent of this bill are clear. They are to move ahead to equality and cooperation in the workplace and thus strengthen our economy. Maybe, possibly, the Conservative Party wants women and workers in this province to remain in the 1940s instead.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I rise in my place this afternoon to debate Mr Harris's motion, opposition day motion number 3. I don't know the folks looking on TV, but they can't see there are two people there from the Conservative Party. That shows you the depth and importance they attach to their opposition day. They've got the member for Finchley up there. He's chatting with someone else. We've got the member for Etobicoke, who's slouched in his chair and can hardly keep awake. I think the people of Ontario need to know what goes on in here. The cameras, unfortunately, are not allowed to pan over there, but if they were able to do that, then we would understand the hypocrisy in this motion here this afternoon. This is absolutely disgraceful.

Mr Stockwell: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Etobicoke West on a point of order.

Mr Stockwell: My point of order is that my riding is Etobicoke West, not Etobicoke South.

The Acting Speaker: An excellent point of information. The honourable member for Durham East.

Mr Mills: I apologize to the honourable member, but the member for Finchley is still chatting away. He's not interested.

Mr Stockwell: It's not Finchley; it's York Mills.

Mr Mills: You know what I mean.

This whole debate on Bill 40, as it has unfolded over the weeks and months in this Legislature and out in the constituency, struck me as rather peculiar. Everybody, with few exceptions, in the business world has gone bananas. I wonder why.

I live in very small-town Ontario. I look around in my community and have a fellow who works in the liquor store. He belongs to the liquor store employees' association, which is a union. Up the street from him there's a fellow who commutes to and from Toronto every day who's a fireman, and he belongs to the firefighters' union. Then I have, naturally, where I live, several members of CAW 222, who work in General Motors in Oshawa, and they belong to the union. Then I have a nurse who works in Bowmanville Memorial Hospital, and she belongs to the

union. I'm trying to think of all the other folks around me—oh, there's a teacher on the corner. He belongs to the teachers' union.

So we have all these fine people who belong to unions, who contribute to the economy of my community. They give to the United Way; they're there doing volunteer work. To put all that in perspective, I don't hear anything coming from the third party that they're wrong, that's dreadful, that should be disbanded or they should be put under.

But up the road a little bit, in another not-too-posh house, lives a woman who's trying to support two children on 66-cent dollars, compared to what the normal rate of pay is. This woman is struggling to keep her family properly clothed and above water. Where does she work? She works in an environment where, goodness only knows, they need some organization, because this woman is being taken advantage of daily, weekly, yearly. She's not getting her fair crack, and this is what Bill 40 is going to do. It's going to ensure that the minorities, that the women, the aboriginal people will get the opportunity to bring them up to strength so that they can live.

I've spoken to this woman and she said to me, "You know, Gord, it makes a difference to the children." She said, "When the kids go to school, they're going in clothes that they get from the Sally Ann, and it rubs off on the other kids." You know, Mr Speaker, children are cruel. They're cruel to one another and they take up on this and it's a pity, because if these women get jobs, well-paid jobs—I'm not talking about the minimum wage and less than the minimum wage—their families flourish and they become part of the community and they're not segregated from other children.

In my riding I have a steady trail of people coming in to see me on Fridays, like you all do, everybody does. Even the member for Etobicoke West, if he's there, I would imagine he does. They give me tales of woe you wouldn't believe—what happened to them at work. The last thing they say to me all the time is, "Boy, if only we had a union where we worked, this wouldn't happen."

Mr Stockwell: Oh, Gord, please.

Mr Mills: This is a fact. He's grimacing and going crackers. I don't know what sort of people go into your constituency office, but I'm sure that the people going to my constituency office are telling me: "This wouldn't happen if we'd had a union. We wouldn't have been victimized like this." This is awful and you know it. You people are dead against unions because you've got no time for them. The member at the back there, he just relishes this and it's disgusting.

Interjection: What's his name?

Mr Mills: It's the member for Finchley; no, Don Mills.

Interjection: York Mills.

Mr Mills: York Mills. Anyway, Mr Speaker, I've been given the word that I've got to sit down for a little while, but I just want to say, too, in my lifetime—I've worked for 50 years—I can't tell you people over there the times that I've been victimized in jobs. I can remember when I only

used to get a Sunday afternoon off every two weeks and then when that Sunday afternoon came up, my boss said, "Where are you going?" I said, "I'm off." He said, "You were off last week." I said, "You've got to be nuts," and that's how they treat people. They manipulate people, they do all kinds of awful things to people that I can tell you. You know what happens to working people. It's disgusting. What Bill 40 will do is put things right for the working man in Ontario and I'm supporting it. Wonderful bill.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): I'm going to speak for five minutes and there's a whole bunch of people here who are going to tell me when my five minutes are up. I'm going to tell you right now, Speaker, that I'm opposing this particular resolution. Why? Because I'm going to be voting for Bill 40, as I did on second reading, and as I would have on first reading, if it indeed had come to the vote. Maybe it did.

In any event, Speaker, look, I come from Welland-Thorold; you know that. I come from a community that has become strong and vital because of hardworking women and men coming as new Canadians, working and working hard. Like I've said so many times—and I could name names and I could name you family names, some of whom have been there for only one generation, some of whom have been there for tens of generations and literally hundreds of years—these people worked hard. Why? So often and more often than not for the most modest of goals, and that was to make life a little better for their children than it was for themselves. To do that they made sacrifices and they were committed and they were dedicated and they stuck to principles and when they said they believed in something, by God, they persisted in that belief, and they were honourable in pursuing their labour.

To protect themselves—yes, to protect themselves—from the injustice that can so often be imposed in the workplace as a result of the great power of an employer in contrast to the non-existence of power of a Hungarian or Ukrainian or Polish or Slovak or Italian immigrant, or a New Canadian from any part of the world, I tell you that they saw as part of the means of creating a balance the creation of labour unions, of trade unions.

Welland-Thorold-Crowland—Crowland, that very south end of Welland, which has a great history in itself—is one of the places in this country that nurtured trade unionism and that cultivated it and disseminated it across not just the province but this country and across this continent. I'm blessed, I tell you, to have not only people in my own family, but neighbours, friends, colleagues and mentors who were very much a part of that movement over the years.

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One of the most troubling things about the debate over Bill 40—indeed it has been a grand debate by the committee, and I was honoured with the privilege of chairing that committee and I did my best. That committee travelled about and sat here at Queen's Park for five weeks. There may well have been the occasional committee that has sat longer hearing submissions from members of the public,

but I can't think of any, or very many, during the course of the four or five years that I've been here. Speaking to some of my colleagues who have been here a lot longer than me—why, even talking to Mel Swart, who was here for 13 years, before 1988, and consulting with him, he can't think of very many committees that heard from more groups and more individuals. There were in excess of 250 submissions made to the resources development committee.

Of course, there was a wide range of views and nobody should expect the construction industry to be in favour of any legislation that provides for greater rights for working people. These are some of the same people who told you that free trade was the way to go. These are some of the same people who told you that the GST was the right way to tax goods, and these are some of the same people who tell you that movement of jobs south as a result of free trade, all the way down to that belt in the north of Mexico, is what's going to bring prosperity for Canadian workers. Well, hogwash.

Let me tell you this, and it's unfortunate that the opposition wouldn't address some of the real issues affecting employment, and more regrettably unemployment, here in the province of Ontario. It's unfortunate that the opposition wouldn't address the issues of free trade and that Mulroney-USA-Washington deal that sucked the life out of our industries.

I remember the federal election in 1988, and the owners of Atlas Steels in Welland had the audacity to write letters to their workers, those hardworking women and men who made that quality stainless steel in Welland at Atlas Steels. Atlas Steels sent letters to each and every one of those employees telling them that if Atlas Steels didn't have free trade—what that meant is that if you didn't vote for Brian Mulroney—why, there was going to be havoc wreaked in the steel industry.

Well, enough people voted for Brian Mulroney to cause the free trade deal, and I tell you, Atlas Steels now is in the process of shifting its jobs south of the border, not because of Bill 40, not because of the cost of doing business per se, but because it can have access to cheap labour, unskilled labour, unorganized labour in jurisdictions where it can abuse that labour and produce steel in a way that we, with principles of fairness overriding our choices, we, with principles of fairness overriding our relationship between working people and owners of industry, do not. And, I tell you, we should insist that those prevail.

Do you want to look at the real causes of unemployment? My five minutes are up. Take a look at the cancellation of the Lake Gibson hydro-electric project in Thorold. That has not only resulted in the destruction of the potential for a clean and environmentally sound hydro-electric project, but it's also caused SNC Lavalin to announce that it's going to be moving its office in Thorold out of Thorold and merging with its main office in the province of Ontario, eliminating some 40-plus jobs. It's going to result in the loss of the incredible number of jobs that would have been created by virtue of the construction itself of that particular project.

Do you want to talk about job loss? We can talk about job loss as a result of the incredible—

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): Gary will.

Mr Kormos: Gary Wilson will—about the incredible cost of power in this province and the inability of Ontario Hydro to address the need for affordable power, consistent power and power that's clean—

Ms Murdock: That has nothing to do with Bill 40.

Mr Kormos: Well, those are matters that had to be spoken to, Ms Murdock, because I didn't have a chance this afternoon to talk about the destruction of the Lake Gibson project in Thorold, nor did I have a chance this afternoon to talk about the impact of excessive power cost to companies like Atlas Steels, Union Carbide, Exolon, other abrasives manufacturers in the Niagara region, and the fact that we'd better do something soon. The opposition should be addressing some of the real problems that we're facing rather than mucking around with the less-than-frank discussion about Bill 40.

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): I'm happy to join this debate on this rather unfortunate opposition day resolution from the Leader of the Opposition.

He reminded me, when he went into the reasons for this resolution and what his colleague said too, of those stories we used to hear about some 40 years after the Second World War ended; the soldiers who would be found still wandering around in isolated areas thinking the war was still on, and had to be told that things had moved since they were fighting. This is what the Leader of the Opposition reminded me of, that he's fighting a war that is long past, and in fact that kind of mentality just leads to the conditions that are destroying our province and the industrial world that we know now.

In any case, I want to say that the need for change is quite clear and it's something we've addressed. There have been no significant changes to the Labour Relations Act in over 15 years, and this is what we're moving to address. We've seen that there are many more women in the workforce now, many more part-time workers, and the service industry has much expanded. These are areas that have to be addressed by the resolution.

The opposition has dwelt on this issue of democracy and just how democratic is our workplace, it would appear. I'd say that they have a rather selective view of democracy in the workplace, that it's as though the workers themselves are closing down plants and moving them south of the border. In fact, workers in the communities they live in have no say when this happens. If democracy existed, maybe when it came time to deciding whether a workplace were moved out of the community, then it would stay. But the decisions are made in a very unaccountable, undemocratic fashion, and that is something that unions, at least, have some control over. They can negotiate conditions that will slow down that kind of movement. This, of course, is very important.

I want to talk briefly about the positive aspects of Bill 40, the positive things that unions bring, not only into the conditions that are in the community, but in the workplace as well. It isn't just the wages and benefits that unions address, but certainly, as my colleagues have suggested, over the years the hard work of unionists in all our communities

has guaranteed that we have decent wages and working conditions. They go out into the community because of the efforts in the workplace. I'm thinking of something like health and safety that unions have fought for in the workplace. But what's the sense of having a safe and healthy workplace if you don't have similar conditions in the community? These are things in the environment where unions have led the way in guaranteeing or ensuring that we have healthy communities as well.

The other thing is just having a voice. Unions allow ordinary working people to have some stake in their workplace that, again, carries out into the community, and to make sure that the need for decent living conditions and decent communities is heard. This is what unions can provide. Any kind of movement towards this is a benefit not only to the workplace but to the community at large.

Finally, I want to return again to this idea that it is a new environment that we're working in here, that cooperation is what will see us through these trying times and into the new industrial environment. We've got to work together with all aspects of the workplace—management, labour and the community at large—to make sure that we have the resources there, to make sure that all our industries are competitive and will work to make the best use of the resources we have, including the workers.

I want to turn the last two minutes over to my colleague, who has worked with the committee through the consultation process. I think he would like to wrap up.

Mr Hayes: I think it's a very sad day that in the 20th century we have a resolution here that tries to deny working people the basic right to organize, and I think it really is a shame.

I hear the members across the floor talking about all the people who are opposed to this piece of legislation. Well, I can tell you that I've had a lot of people who have come to me and asked about how they can get organized because they're not making a decent wage or decent benefits. Do you know what these people tell me? These people tell me, "Please don't mention my name, because if you mention my name, that I even spoke union, I lose my job." I think that's really a shame.

One thing I'm very pleased is in this legislation is the part of banning replacement workers. It'll stop what that Conservative government did back in the—if they can remember the Fleck strike, they sent the police in there, and beat up on workers and beat up on some of my own colleagues and my family, who were there to help those people organize. They sent the police down.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): What year was that?

Mr Stockwell: When was that?

Mr Hayes: It was in the 1970s when the Conservative government was here.

Interjections.

Mr Hayes: Yes, times have changed. I think the sooner this legislation is passed the better, to give people basic needs. We don't have to go back—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. Order. Time for opposition day motion number 3 has ended.

Mr Harris has moved:

"That whereas the New Democratic Party government's amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, known as Bill 40, will kill jobs and destroy investment in Ontario;

"And whereas Bill 40 ignores the rights of individual workers by not legislating a secret ballot vote for certification, ratification of a collective agreement and the decision to strike; and

"And whereas a Progressive Conservative government will repeal Bill 40 following the next election and initiate a fair and balanced tripartite process to review labour relations in Ontario;

"Therefore, this House calls upon the NDP government to immediately withdraw Bill 40."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Call in the members; five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1753 to 1758.

The Acting Speaker: Would the members please take their seats? I'd ask the members to please take their seats.

Mr Harris has moved opposition day motion number 3. All those in favour of the motion will please rise and stand one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Ayes

Beer, Callahan, Carr, Conway, Cordiano, Cousens, Eddy, Elston, Eves, Grandmaitre, Harnick, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Jordan, Kwinter, Mahoney, Mancini, Marland, Miclash, O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Poole, Runciman, Sola, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West), Witmer.

The Acting Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please stand one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

Nays

Abel, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Farnan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard;

MacKinnon, Mackenzie, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pouliot, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 32; the nays 64.

The Acting Speaker: The nays being 64 and the ayes 32, I declare the motion lost.

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I wish to extend happy birthday greetings to the member for Windsor-Sandwich, Mr George Dadamo.

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of privilege but certainly an information point.

It now being after 6 of the clock, this House does stand adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1803.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Larry	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Wininger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	St Andrew-St Patrick
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	St Catharines
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 4 November 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Wednesday 4 novembre 1992

Issues 73B and 74 were reprinted because of an error in page numbering. Please retain the issue of 73B beginning with page 2989 and that of 74 beginning with 3001.

Les numéros 73B et 74 ont été réimprimés pour corriger une erreur de numérotage des pages. Veuillez conserver le numéro 73B qui commence à la page 2989, et le numéro 74 qui commence à la page 3001.

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 4 November 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

KIDNEY DIALYSIS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): One of the duties of an MPP is to remind the government of the genuine needs that exist in his or her constituency and the region in which the member resides. That is why, for several months, I made statements, asked questions and delivered speeches in this House to bring to the attention of the Minister of Health and her cabinet colleagues the need for at least one additional CAT scanner in the Niagara Peninsula.

Persistence paid off, I am pleased to report, and on Friday, November 13, I will be attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the CAT scanner at the Welland County General Hospital. Mission accomplished.

On numerous occasions I have risen in the Legislature to reveal the plight of kidney dialysis patients who use the renal dialysis unit at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St Catharines. I have described the conditions for patients and staff alike as appalling, and have provided a detailed description of the critical situation and the solution to this acute problem.

Once again I ask, on behalf of over 100 patients and a dedicated but overburdened staff, that the Ministry of Health provide the necessary funding immediately to renovate or replace the kidney dialysis unit at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St Catharines. Your government has a fund established for such projects. The need is urgent and unquestioned, and only the announcement of the Minister of Health is required to meet this immediate and genuine need.

GRAND RIVER

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): For almost half a year now, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Culture and Communications have been approached by the Grand River Conservation Authority and by many other members in this House to provide much-needed funding to the GRCA for the completion of its management plan, which is required in order that the Grand River might be designated as a Canadian heritage river.

One of the NDP's own members, the member for Cambridge, has risen in this House on two occasions now to impress upon the Minister of Natural Resources the importance of this project. Unfortunately, he has been rebuffed in both instances with encouraging talk from the minister, but no commitment.

In my own letters to the minister, I have been assured that the minister views the Grand River's heritage designation as an important goal, but he stops short of committing the funding. Words are cheap and actions speak volumes.

If the minister is really serious about the management plan, he should stop talking and start acting, as time is running out.

It would be very sad to see an opportunity like this slip away. The Grand River valley has a rich diversity of outstanding heritage resources of national stature. Already, there has been a great deal of effort and expense to achieve the nomination of the Grand River and its major tributaries into the system.

I urge the Minister of Natural Resources to pay attention to his own colleague the member for Cambridge and the many members in this House who support the completion of the management plan. I urge the minister to stop the sweet talk and deliver the goods.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr David Winninger (London South): I rise in the House today to reflect in human terms on the vital importance of a job. I will focus on the adult education training information service being established in London, where my home riding of London South is located.

A job is a source of income, but it is much more. Personal pride and the social contacts that often lead to other opportunities are other aspects of having a job. Job loss often means that an individual is exiled from the world of job contacts.

This government is taking action to stop job losses. New skills are needed in our changing global economy and access to skills training information is essential. This is why the adult education training information service is so vital. A \$200,000 Ministry of Labour grant will establish this service and fund the first year of operation. By next month, a computerized database of information on training, retraining and adult education will be available to 34,000 men and women in London looking for work.

On-line computer access will be available at the London Unemployment Help Centre, city library branches and Information London, which is also coordinating this project. Printed information will be available to individuals, counselling agencies, educational institutions and government offices. The adult education training information service is an important milestone in our journey towards jobs and economic recovery.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): In the interests of fairness, I want to give the Premier some credit today for trying to do better. Many people, I think, have been critical of the Premier for running a kind of one-person band and controlling everything from his office. In fact, some of his own caucus, I think, have been critical. But I think we're seeing the Premier trying to do better and to change. Let me tell you how.

I think we all know that the financial results will be out tomorrow for the first six months. Normally, of course, we would get them a lot earlier—last year we had them two

weeks earlier—but for some reason they're delayed this year until 1:30 tomorrow.

Normally, the Premier would want to be here to kind of bask in the glory of two years of the economic policies of his government, but now he's generously going to let the Treasurer take all the credit. Tomorrow morning at 10 am, the Premier's plane lifts off the tarmac, heads out west, and tomorrow at 1:30 he's going to give Floyd Laughren the chance to take all the glory for the first six months' results. So now I think we see some change in the Premier's office, allowing others to bask in the glory, finally. What a guy. Let's hear it for the Premier.

ORANGEVILLE SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I'd like to bring to the attention of this House a very special event taking place in my riding of Dufferin-Peel on Saturday, November 14: Santa Claus is coming to town.

As part of the celebration surrounding the Orangeville Santa Claus Parade, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, N.R. Jackman, has agreed to attend the Orangeville Santa Claus Parade as the parade marshal. It will be my pleasure to welcome the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario to beautiful Dufferin-Peel, and I look forward to introducing him to some of the people who have made Dufferin-Peel unique.

The Orangeville Santa Claus Parade committee, organized by the local business improvement area, has been working diligently over the past year to ensure that this year's parade goes down in history as the best one yet. The theme for this year's parade is Christmas in Toyland, and floats will include a giant 55-foot helium balloon in the shape of a toy soldier from the Nutcracker Suite. Kids of all ages who attend the parade will be treated to many floats, including the Canada 125 float in celebration of Canada's 125th birthday. There are seven first-class bands participating in this year's parade, coming from as far away as Ohio.

The Orangeville Santa Claus Parade will be a real treat for anyone who attends. I would like to officially invite all members of the House to come to the Orangeville Santa Claus Parade to meet our Lieutenant Governor and rekindle your childhood memories with an old acquaintance, Santa Claus.

1340

DOUGALL AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): I'm pleased to report to the Legislature today the official opening of Dougall Avenue Public School in Windsor-Sandwich. The ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 27, 1992, and in attendance were about 500 people. I'm sorry that I was unable to be there.

This new \$5-million, state-of-the-art school will contain several firsts for the school board in the city of Windsor. Each classroom will have a telephone so the teacher can call an absent child and find out his or her whereabouts by speed dialling. Dougall Avenue school also contains an elevator for use by staff and by pupils with disabilities.

This is another first in Windsor and also for the school system: It is also the first school to meet the Ministry of the Environment requirements for fresh air. The air in the entire building is exchanged for fresh air every hour.

Dougall Avenue school even caught the eye of 75-year-old Robert Puida of Windsor, whose daughter attended the school back in 1964. The gym is bigger; the library now has 65 computers.

The school colours are blue and red, and the enthusiasm in the neighbourhood is very high and proud.

I'd like to congratulate staff, students and parents on the opening of Dougall Avenue Public School in Windsor-Sandwich, and I'd like to congratulate the Dougall Dragons.

PREMIER'S COMMENTS

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): It's fair to say that we've been aware for some time of the Premier's tactic of avoiding tough questions by his growing record of absence from this House, but now he also appears to be trying to escape his responsibilities even on those few occasions when the questions of the day are actually placed before him.

In a discussion about politicians in the referendum last week, Bob Rae called the criticisms "unfair." When asked about the job crisis in the province, Bob Rae said it was "unfair" to blame his government and himself. When asked in the House about his abdication of responsibility for the policing crisis in the province, Bob Rae said this was "unfair." When asked about his office's letter to the Ontario Municipal Board on a development project in his riding, Rae repeatedly said the allegation was "unfair."

At the press conference on the new chair of Ontario Hydro, Bob Rae said it was "unfair" for the opposition to blame hydro rate hikes on his government. When the question about taking time away from the House for his Asia trip was posed, Rae said this was likewise "unfair." Yesterday, when asked by the media whether he found it appropriate that Ontario Hydro had spent money to find a chair by employing an American headhunting firm when Maurice Strong was obviously already chosen for the position, Rae responded by saying he felt it was "unfair" to question in that fashion.

Does the Premier now want the public to believe that anyone who asks him a question is just being "unfair"? Does he feel it's appropriate to hide from every issue with this response? We hope that this is not the case, because when the Premier returns from the Asia trip, the questions will not have disappeared.

RHÉAL BÉLISLE

M. Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & Grenville-Est) : I wish to recognize the passing of a former member of this chamber and a highly respected politician by all parties, which is never an easy feat: the late Senator Rhéal Bélesle.

L'honorable sénateur Rhéal Bélesle est décédé hier à l'âge de 73 ans, et au nom du Parti progressiste-conservateur ontarien, nous désirons offrir nos sincères condoléances à la famille Bélesle.

Rhéal Bélisle a dédié 48 ans de sa vie à la politique municipale, provinciale et fédérale. Il a toujours été un grand fervent de sa religion, la religion catholique.

Rhéal Bélisle a été élu à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario comme député progressiste-conservateur pour le comté de Nickel Belt lors des élections de 1955 et encore en 1959. Il a démissionné en tant que député provincial le 3 février 1963, lorsqu'il a été nommé sénateur par le premier ministre John Diefenbaker.

À l'Assemblée législative ontarienne, Rhéal Bélisle a siégé sur les comités spéciaux d'assurance-récolte et des lois municipales. Les gens pourront se rappeler M. Bélisle lorsque le Sénat a défait le projet de loi sur l'avortement le 1^{er} février 1991. Le sénateur Rhéal Bélisle était à ce moment-là le vice-président du Sénat lors du vote du projet de loi en question, et que le résultat fut égal. L'honorable M. Bélisle a déclaré cette loi défaite.

Le 16 mai 1982, le pape lui décerne l'honneur de chevalier de l'ordre de Saint-Grégoire-le-Grand, le plus grand honneur de l'Église catholique.

Lorsqu'on regarde sa référence dans le Guide parlementaire canadien, Rhéal Bélisle était un homme dédié à son travail. Il a représenté de nombreuses fois le Canada et le Sénat à travers le monde.

Au cours des trois dernières décennies, il a reçu plusieurs honneurs, tels que : président d'honneur à vie de l'Université Laurentienne, membre à vie de l'ordre de mérite de la culture française du Canada, membre fondateur du conseil consultatif national de la Fondation canadienne de la fibrose kystique, chevalier de l'ordre de Saint-Jean-de-Jérusalem, chevaliers de Malte, et j'en passe.

Encore une fois, nos sincères condoléances à la famille Bélisle.

NATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Mr Len Wood (Cochrane North): I want to take this opportunity to inform the House of some projects presently under way in Cochrane North.

Recently the Minister of Northern Development and Mines granted sums of money to several first nations in Cochrane North. The funds from Minister Shelley Martel are part of the first nations communities infrastructure projects program.

In Moose Factory, 10 houses are undergoing renovations to improve living standards. On the Constance Lake reserve, \$180,000 has been granted to assist the first nations to renovate houses and the Mammamattawa camps to renovate and extend the community hall and to construct a band office complex, including a detoxification centre. As well, the present band office is being renovated into a child care centre to encourage the children to remain in a familiar environment rather than going into the nearest town for child care facilities. Other first nations child care facilities are being constructed in Attawapiskat near the shore of James Bay. At the New Post first nations reserve near Cochrane \$180,000 has been granted to assist in the construction of a new community hall, to renovate homes and to landscape the grounds.

Through a joint federal-provincial housing program, two non-profit housing groups in Moosonee are planning to develop 75 rental homes. These will help ease the housing shortage in the far north.

Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services in Fort Albany will see its centre receive electricity in the coming months. This project is also providing employment for 20 people for four months. The successful Jobs Ontario Capital program is providing the funding for this project.

I'm very pleased with the commitment my government has demonstrated time and time again to the aboriginal peoples of Ontario.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

BALLET OPERA FACILITIES

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): Today I am making a statement concerning the ballet and opera and disposition of the East of Bay land. In making this statement I am pleased to report that we have been successful in achieving both the economic and cultural objectives of this government.

Two years ago this government announced that it would not proceed with the funding for a ballet opera house on the East of Bay land. At the same time the government reaffirmed its commitment to the ballet and opera companies to work towards finding them permanent facilities by reserving the Bay-Wellesley site for them. It was a tough decision but the right one for a province experiencing the worst recession in decades. Ontario simply could not afford the ballet opera house proposal.

During these two years the need for housing has continued, as have the needs of the ballet and opera companies. Over the past few weeks, provincial facilitator Dale Martin, together with the Ministry of Culture and Communications and the Ministry of Government Services, has worked closely with Metro Toronto, the Ballet Opera House Corp, the Canadian Opera Company and the National Ballet of Canada to find a solution that ensures a home for the ballet and opera companies and allows much-needed housing to proceed on the Bay-Wellesley site. These discussions have led to a fresh approach in facing the dual challenges of housing and facilities for the two companies.

1350

Representatives from the Ballet Opera House Corp and the ballet and opera companies are in the House today. We have arrived at an understanding that recognizes, first, that the use of the Bay-Wellesley site for a ballet opera house is not feasible and, second, the land involved will be developed with housing as a priority.

Further, the province, consistent with its support for the two performing arts organizations, is announcing that it is contributing \$30 million towards permanent performing facilities for the ballet and opera. This commitment will be realized from the development or sale of the East of Bay land, thus maintaining our commitment without any new demand on the provincial budget.

We estimate that our contribution of \$30 million will create at least \$100 million in economic activity. In addition,

this will generate about 1,900 direct, indirect and induced person-years of work. This calculation does not even begin to address the multiplier effects of culture on the economy or the jobs that will be created through the development of the East of Bay land.

As a first step in looking for a solution, Metropolitan Toronto will investigate if a renovated O'Keefe Centre can be part of this solution. It would have to pass the tests of financial viability and meet the performing, administrative and rehearsal needs of the two companies. In addition, we would have to ensure that both companies have suitable performing venues during the time the O'Keefe is under reconstruction.

If the O'Keefe Centre becomes part of the solution, it gets a much-needed renovation, the ballet and opera companies will have a performing home, and importantly, no new cultural dollars will be spent on this project.

In developing the East of Bay land we are contributing to economic renewal through construction jobs. This land is a valuable resource. Since a ballet opera house on the site is not possible, the land should be and will be used productively. A mix of residential, commercial and community space development will contribute to the revitalization of the downtown area. In short, it's a solution for the 1990s.

As a government, we are committed to our agenda of creating jobs and focusing on economic renewal. We are also committed to supporting and nurturing our cultural industries and the arts sector, recognizing their important role in shaping our society and our economy.

The approach we are presenting today recognizes the economic realities and challenges of our time. It also reflects how individuals, groups, institutions and government can work together positively to achieve a creative outcome.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I'm pleased to respond to the comments of the minister and to say two things. One is that we believe both the opera and the ballet are essential organizations for the province of Ontario and we will be watching carefully the plans you've unfolded today here for an alternative site for them. On this side of the House at least, we'll be working closely to help them find the appropriate long-term home.

The second thing we'll be doing is watching the development in the East of Bay project. Frankly, if I sound overly partisan here, I apologize, but virtually everything the NDP government touches turns to dust, and we'll be watching the development of this.

I say that because you talk about job creation here. The unemployment rate now among young people in the province of Ontario—and it's a tragedy—is 20% higher than in the rest of Canada, and it used to be dramatically lower in Ontario than the rest of Canada. In September, the unemployment rate in every other province in this country dropped; in Ontario it didn't. The unemployment rate in Metropolitan Toronto now, unbelievably, is substantially higher than the national average. So in terms of having confidence in the Rae government's ability to tackle the economic problems and to use projects like this to do it, the credibility is dramatically lacking.

Virtually every one of the major economic renewal plans Bob Rae announced when he became the government and reannounced in a speech from the throne is on the rocks. Building a partnership in the workplace—we've never seen it so divided and tomorrow we'll vote on a bill that will crystallize that.

We have been waiting for the training project. Training is the thing that Premier Rae said he is most proud of. We have not even seen a draft of the legislation. The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board is getting so complicated, so bureaucratic, that our fear is that the fundamental issue of dealing with training in the workplace is going to go on the rocks because this government has complicated it.

Regarding the Ontario investment fund, an opportunity to find capital to use to build our businesses, that idea has been polluted. We hear now that the teachers are saying they won't participate in it; OMERS is saying it won't participate in it. So the third plank of the economic renewal plan is on the rocks.

You talked about worker ownership; I'm just telling you that your plans aren't working. We have every right on this side of the House to be indignant and to say we have no confidence in this government's ability and no confidence in the Premier's ability to get the economy going. We see this project today that calls for job creation—again, I might say—and today we see the help wanted ads across this country. In every province in this country the index of help wanted went up. In other words, there's more demand for jobs everywhere in the country except in one province. Where is it? It's Ontario.

The Premier will say: "It's not my fault. I'm going to blame Brian Mulroney because that's good politics. I'm going to blame the GST. I'm going to blame everything else." But why is it that unemployment rates in other provinces are dropping? I tell you as strongly as I can: If we let this problem of youth unemployment continue, we, every single one of us, are sowing the seeds of a major problem. Youth unemployment in this province now is 20% higher than it is in the rest of the country. I tell you, all of us have got to tackle this issue quickly.

Seldom do we have ministerial statements to comment on; when we have them they are not tackling the fundamental issues in this province. That's why I've responded to it in the fashion in which I have today.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I was waiting to see in the announcement by the minister the announcement that there would be money for the kidney dialysis unit at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St Catharines.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): This is related to the announcement?

Mr Bradley: Yes, it is. This minister is purportedly saving some money for the taxpayers of the province of Ontario, and the money she saves could go to the kidney dialysis unit at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St Catharines.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): In responding to this statement by the Minister of Culture and Communications, I think one of the interesting parts of the statement is actually on the first page, where she says: "Two years ago, this government announced that it would

not proceed with the funding for a ballet opera house on the East of Bay land. At the same time, the government reaffirmed its commitment to the ballet and opera companies to work towards finding them permanent facilities by reserving the Bay-Wellesley site for them."

I don't think it takes very much intelligence to understand that in this statement itself there is a tremendous contradiction. On the one hand this government says: "We are committed to our agenda of creating jobs and focusing on economic renewal. We are also committed to supporting and nurturing our cultural industries and the arts sector, recognizing their important role in shaping our society and our economy." Unfortunately, we have neither a government nor a Minister of Cultural and Communications that recognizes that the cultural industries and the arts sector themselves create jobs and help drive our economy. That's unfortunately the limitation this government is under.

Also, this government does not seem to recognize that when there is a commitment in writing between one government and the people of this province, that commitment is made. They seem to feel that at their own whim, depending on what their particular ideology is, they can change commitments that previous governments made.

I simply say to them that the announcement to sell this property in itself, at this time, is a breach of faith to the people of this province. If they are going to let this valuable land go in a fire sale, at this time, then what we say to them is that not only have they reneged on a prior commitment for another use, in conjunction with housing and other commercial uses of that property; they are giving away the most valuable piece of land that's left in the city core.

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Frankly, we don't think that the city core is the place to put affordable housing and residential development. There are no schools in this area. We feel that any kind of residential development should be where it is the most comfortable environment for the people who are going to live in those homes.

It's time we realized that the value of this land, if this government is bent on selling it, should be realized at a time when the market is more realistic to the real value. Therefore, this is not the time to sell it, and if it is sold, it should be sold for its highest and best use and the money taken and used by this government in direct shelter subsidy programs, not putting people down here in the city core to live in what they call affordable housing or non-profit housing.

We're simply saying that the government should get out of the housing business and look after thousands upon thousands more people by a direct shelter subsidy program from the income of any revenue it has from the sale of any land, especially land in the city core.

The other thing they have to give some answer to is the private sector, which has pledged millions of dollars, in excess of \$25 million for this project which they're now abandoning. The question of the future of the O'Keefe Centre and whether that's practical or not, I will leave to the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): With respect to the O'Keefe Centre and the feasibility of this particular project, I note that some two years ago this concept was outlined by Metropolitan Toronto council. At that time, the Ballet Opera House wanted nothing to do with it; it wasn't what it wanted. It wanted its own operation at Bay and Wellesley, and it was very clear that it wasn't an acceptable alternative. I'm frankly surprised today it finds it to be that acceptable.

I will also say that the \$30 million has to come from somewhere, and you're going to have to generate revenue to pay for a \$100-million expansion of facility that will downsize the O'Keefe Centre. It's a profitable operation that puts taxpayers' dollars back into the community at a profit. My thinking is that if the feds go along with it, and I'm not sure they will, you will turn a profitable operation, by downsizing it, into a money loser that will cost the taxpayers money.

The Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr Stockwell: My point is that I don't think the feds—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My first question is to the Premier. Premier, the police crisis, which your government has created, has now spread to every corner of the province. About 90% of Ontario's 21,000 officers are expected to be involved in some form of job action in the next few days.

We understand the Solicitor General is meeting right now with police representatives, and frankly we all hope that this meeting will turn out well and that there can be a resolution to what is becoming a near-crisis situation. But given the Solicitor General's track record on this issue, resolution seems doubtful, given the fact that the Solicitor General himself has indicated that he does not have the green light from you to be able to take the steps necessary to resolve the issue. We are doubtful about a successful resolution through this meeting.

Premier, it seems quite evident that the police have little faith in the Solicitor General's ability to resolve the issue. They've asked to meet with you. Given the fact that you are here today and that your Solicitor General is meeting, why did you not join that meeting and help to ensure that a resolution could be found?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I say directly to the honourable member that the Police Association of Ontario, in its meeting with the Solicitor General on Friday, made it very clear that they were happy to deal with the Solicitor General. They realize the confidence that I have in him and the confidence that they have in him. They've been part of an ongoing relationship and dialogue with the Solicitor General over several months.

I want to say that the Solicitor General has the full authority to deal with this question. He has a clear responsibility to

deal with this issue. The police association and the Solicitor General are, I am told—I was advised as I was coming in here—currently now engaged in what I hope will prove to be very constructive dialogue. In my view, that's the way it should be handled.

Mrs McLeod: Premier, I understand you've expressed the hope that the outcome of this meeting between the Solicitor General and the police will be as successful as the outcome of the last meeting between the Solicitor General and the police. As we observe it from a somewhat more distant view, the result of the last meeting was that this escalation of the conflict has now reached the entire province, and 90% of the province's police forces are now supportive of the Metro police job action.

Premier, we found it unbelievable that the Solicitor General would not consult directly with the single largest police force in the province before changing rules that affect the way they do their job. I find it utterly incomprehensible that you would leave the province before ensuring that a resolution to this situation has been found.

Premier, I ask you, in case things do remain unresolved after this meeting today, what provisions have you left in place to ensure that this serious crisis will be resolved? What flexibility have you given to the Solicitor General to address the concerns which have been raised by police officers in Metro Toronto and indeed in every community across this province?

Hon Mr Rae: I'm satisfied that the Solicitor General and indeed the government, together with the police services boards and others, have the ability and the means to deal with this issue and to create a climate in which we can have a constructive dialogue with the police forces of this province and individual police officers, in whom we have complete confidence.

I would say to the honourable member that I think this is the way the issue should be handled, in a way that people are talking around a table, talking in a constructive way. The Solicitor General is leading this on behalf of the government and I think he's leading it very effectively. It's a tough set of issues and he's handling it with great ability and with a great deal of personal commitment. I have complete confidence in the Solicitor General.

Mrs McLeod: Premier, it is a tough issue, and we are all tremendously concerned about it. We are concerned, Premier, that on this very tough issue, an issue which in fact is reaching near-crisis proportions across the province, you are not prepared to deal with a question that asks, "How can you leave this province without being absolutely assured that the crisis has been resolved?" Premier, your comfort, your degree of confidence, your ability to just say, "It will be fine and I can leave the province," simply fails to understand the degree of concern that exists across the province.

Premier, I want to take you back to some words that you used when you were in opposition, dealing with the government's response to a wildcat strike and illegal job action on the part of corrections officers in 1989. I raise these words with you because I want you to think about their application to the situation you face today:

"We have been critical of this minister for failing to meet. I continue to believe that if the minister had shown a personal willingness to meet with representatives of the union several days ago this matter could have been resolved, that the issues that led to this confrontation were not a secret to this government—they are well known and well documented—and that to this time, the minister himself has not even personally met with representatives of the union with regard to these issues."

Premier, I say to you, do you not understand that the way in which the refusal to deal with these issues, to meet with the Metro police, has led to an escalation of this conflict right across the province. In seeking a resolution to this issue today, can you assure us that you do understand why this conflict has occurred? Can you understand why it is an issue that police in every community across the province, from Thunder Bay to Trenton, feel very strongly about? Do you understand the kind of alienation that police officers are feeling? What will you do to ensure that these tensions can be alleviated, and that relations between your government and the police can be improved?

Hon Mr Rae: I think the efforts that have been made by the Solicitor General—you mentioned my willingness. I spoke to the members of the Ontario Provincial Police Association. I think I'm probably the first Premier in several years to speak directly to such a meeting. I spoke at some length with people. I've met with people on many different occasions and I will continue to do so.

However, with respect to the issues that are now before us, I think it's also important that members of cabinet take responsibility, and carry out those responsibilities, for their portfolios. I have confidence in the ability of the Solicitor General to deal with what is a tough issue, one that must be resolved successfully and resolved in a way that shows a sense of mutual respect and a sense of mutual understanding.

That's exactly what we are trying to do and what we very much want to build on and work towards in the future. That's precisely the position we're taking. In a difficult circumstance, I think it's constructive and I think it's going to prove to be ultimately a very effective approach.

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SALARY OF ONTARIO HYDRO CHAIR

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to ask my second question of the Premier and return to an issue he did not respond to yesterday. Premier, yesterday we asked some, what we believe to be, important questions, clearly rather embarrassing questions for you, about Ontario Hydro. You did not deny yesterday that Al Holt, the former president of Hydro, who was forcibly deposed by your government, was given a \$1.2-million severance package.

Your handpicked chair of Ontario Hydro has confirmed that his salary at the United Nations before accepting this new position was around \$140,000. In his new position, he will make \$425,000, an increase of 203%. Your Minister of Energy has now confirmed that an American executive search firm was hired at a cost of \$100,000 to find a new

chairman of Hydro and he also confirmed that the contract was untendered.

Mr Premier, yesterday you refused to answer this question. Your minister has now confirmed the facts of the case, and before you refer this question to the minister, Premier, I ask you very directly, how do you defend this action by your Minister of Energy?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I'll let the Minister of Energy answer that question.

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): The Leader of the Opposition included a number of things in her preamble, but I would assume the question she was wanting an answer to was the question about the search firm and the letting of the contract.

As we've said a number of times in this House—and I think as has become very apparent because of the discussions we've had in this House around Ontario Hydro, around the capital debt of Ontario Hydro, around cost overruns and around the rate increases that have occurred over the course of the last couple of years—as a result of significant lack of political leadership by two previous administrations, we've got a huge and important job to do in turning Hydro around.

The chair announced in July that he was leaving at the end of October. We had a fairly short period of time in which to turn around and fill a very important position. The contract for the search firm was let on August 28. The work by that firm all happens to have been done by Canadians out of the Toronto office of the firm. It's our view that the problem that had to be resolved here—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Charlton: —and the position that had to be filled in a very short period of time were important enough to proceed quickly.

Mrs McLeod: Minister, you presumed wrong. The question that I asked the Premier was how he could even begin to defend your completely indefensible actions.

The Premier keeps refusing to answer any questions about Ontario Hydro. In fact, the Premier just keeps saying that our questions are unfair. I would say to the Premier, as he refuses to answer the questions again today, that people across this province do not think these questions are unfair. The Minister of Energy has said that he's not even particularly interested in these matters. Minister, I can tell you that the people whom I talk to across the province are very interested in these matters.

Minister, today we learned that the Premier's hand-picked chair of Hydro, in spite of a \$100,000 untendered contract to a consulting firm, is only to serve for two years. Will you confirm that the length of Maurice Strong's contract is indeed for two years?

Hon Mr Charlton: I can't confirm that it's for only two years because my understanding is that in fact it's for five years.

In relation to the Leader of the Opposition's comment about the unfairness of their questions, I wouldn't characterize the questions that have come from the Leader of the

Opposition, a former Minister of Energy in this House, as unfair; I would characterize them as rather naïve.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mrs McLeod: I hope the Minister of Energy is not suggesting that it's naïve to be concerned about the way in which salary dollars, severance settlements, are going to affect Hydro rates and about the way that increased Hydro rates are affecting every individual in this province, from mothers on welfare to our biggest companies.

Minister, today we've learned that Mr Strong will receive a pension of two thirds of his \$425,000 salary for what you now tell us is five years' work. This works out to \$280,000 per year in pension. Will you confirm that this information is correct?

Hon Mr Charlton: As the Premier very openly announced on Thursday of last week, when he and Mr Strong sat in the press room downstairs and announced the appointment, Mr Strong's pension would be the pension that's available to all of the executives at Hydro, and nothing more and nothing less.

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is for the Premier, and it's related to the situation of the policing of the province as well. I must say that I find it rather ironic that the leader of the Liberal Party is talking about a crisis. This is a crisis, if indeed it is a crisis, that has developed over years. It was the Liberal Party that appointed Susan Eng, the Liberal Party that created the SIU, the special investigations unit. It was a Liberal task force that brought in most of these regulatory proposals, so it's passing strange to hear the concern today.

I want to ask the Premier about the regulatory changes, specifically the one that has generated the most discussion: the requirement to file a report when a revolver is drawn in public.

I want to remind the Premier of some of the problems faced, which are unique to the province, especially in some of the neighbourhoods of Metro Toronto. I've talked to police officers who have to draw their weapons on numerous occasions during a shift, who just a couple of weeks ago, when they were confronting a Vietnamese gang, had to use people they were arresting as body shields, as human shields, to get out of a building because of concern for their lives; the kinds of hazards that these individuals face on an almost daily basis.

When you look at that and you look at the unique concerns of Metro police especially in this province, I don't believe we've had a full explanation as to why this particular regulation was developed and what you hope to achieve by it.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I will try to answer the questions. The Solicitor General obviously has been very much involved in the discussions with a variety of people, including the Police Association of Ontario and other groups, with respect to this issue, but let me just put it to the member this way.

The purpose of the regulation is really twofold. First of all, it's to provide a degree of protection for the police officers themselves with respect to the filing of information. If there's an objective source of information with respect to an occurrence, it's the view of the Solicitor General and the view that I think emerged from a long process that this is going to be a source of important protection for officers themselves, in terms of recognizing that the pulling of a gun is an occurrence, an event, it's an event of some significance in the daily work of an officer, and therefore it's important to have that source of protection.

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The second is to ensure, in terms of training and in terms of the ability of police chiefs and of those who are responsible for the management of police forces, that training is done on an ongoing basis and that the chiefs of police themselves are able to see that the use of force, generally speaking, is appropriate to the circumstances.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: I want to stress to the honourable member that those are the two basic reasons. There's certainly no presumption on the part of the regulation that it's either proper or improper for an officer to draw a gun. That's a decision that's made by an officer, it's a decision made by an officer according to the training he receives, and it's made according to the officer's obligation to protect his or her own life and to protect the lives and safety of other citizens. That's precisely the grounds, so there's no question of anybody second-guessing or doublechecking or asking people to think twice. It's simply a matter—

The Speaker: Could the Premier please conclude his response.

Hon Mr Rae: —there for records with respect to training and with respect to protecting officers themselves.

Mr Runciman: Clearly, the police officers across the province don't share the Premier's view, especially in terms of protecting police officers. If you read the *Globe and Mail* story today about a four-tiered system for reporting this—talk about complex—some sort of report for a variety of efforts in terms of drawing a revolver. A letter I have here from the Metro police force indicates that indeed these are going to be used for disciplinary purposes.

I want to talk about another element in respect to these regulations. I want to try to determine what the thinking was of yourself and other members of the government in respect to these changes: That's the one where the external consultative committee, which you paid little or no heed to, recommended that police officers in this province be allowed to use semiautomatic weapons.

Premier, just in Metro Toronto last year close to 1,200 offensive weapons were seized by police; that's just in Metro Toronto. We know there's extensive weaponry on the streets, modern, sophisticated. Our police officers are outgunned. The irony of this, as I pointed out to you some time ago, Premier, is that your own security officers can carry semiautomatic weapons and do, but the man and woman out there—

The Speaker: Could the member place his supplementary, please.

Mr Runciman: —on the beat is required by you to carry a .38 revolver. Will you again, Premier, explain the rationale, explain to the public, explain to the police officers out there why your security officers can carry semiautomatics but the average police officer in this province does not have the approval from your government?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me speak very directly to the point. I can tell the honourable member that any decisions with respect to my own security are not made by me. I'm never consulted—

Mr Runciman: That's not the point.

Hon Mr Rae: Well, it is the point. I think I have to say this clearly and categorically so there's no misunderstanding. Any decisions that are made with respect to my own security arrangements are made by the Ontario Provincial Police and are made by the commissioner, I suppose, ultimately, with respect to the authorization of any particular issues.

Let me say with respect to the issue of semiautomatic guns—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): They don't trust you. They don't believe you. You may as well sit down.

Hon Mr Rae: I say directly to the honourable member—if I can speak through the heckling from the member from Etobicoke—that this is something which is still being reviewed within the ministry and by the committees which the ministry is consulting with, and it's something which is still under discussion. Again, that's something the Solicitor General has made very clear with respect to those questions. The questions of what the appropriate use of force is, what the appropriate weapons are, are issues that need to be discussed thoroughly, they need to be consulted thoroughly, there needs to be advice from experts.

As I say, in terms of the security arrangements which are made with respect to me, I'm simply not at liberty to discuss those.

Mr Runciman: This continues the double standard in respect to the Premier and this government. He can meet with certain groups in society—pressure groups, vocal pressure groups—but he can't meet with police officers. He can have his security force carry semiautomatic weapons, but the public or police officers on the beat cannot have the same protection. He says he doesn't have anything to do with that, but he has the final voice in respect to the police officer on the beat. It doesn't make any sense to us in here and it certainly doesn't make any sense to police officers.

I want to say to the Premier that he can do something positive here. We've got this stalemate, and I'm going to propose something: If he does not want to meet with the Metro force, would he at least consider coming forward with an initiative that will delay implementation of the regulations for another six months, until the middle of 1993, so that a broad-based committee, including front-line cops, can tour this province, get input from forces and public right across this province, before you proceed any further? Will you make that commitment today?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say first of all that there's one other thing the member said in his comments; I think he said it's the view of the Metro force, or he's been told by the Metro force, that it's the intention of the government to use any information with respect to the regulations for disciplinary purposes. That's quite wrong. I want the member to know there is absolutely no such intention, and that's been made clear by the Solicitor General from day one.

The Solicitor General has made it clear that he very much wants to carry on a constructive dialogue with the police forces of the province on all the issues that have been raised by the honourable member. It is not the government's intention to delay or rescind the regulation. It is our intention to carry on a constructive and positive dialogue. It is our determination to do that, and if I may say so, it's also our determination not to exacerbate things, in particular, if I may say so, not to try to personalize things too much at a time when these issues are really quite difficult to resolve.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier, regarding the mess at WCB. Let me quote, Premier, from former NDP member and now chairman of the WCB, Odoardo Di Santo. He says, "Surely it must be clear that the foundation on which workers' compensation was built cannot much longer support the needs, let alone the demands, of those for whom it was designed."

In other words, Mr Premier, your chair is clearly on record as stating that the WCB is broken and that it cannot, in his opinion, be fixed. I think this is quite an admission from the chief executive officer, the person responsible for overseeing the WCB. I would ask you if you agree with your chair that this is an accurate reflection of the state of the Workers' Compensation Board?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I haven't seen the context of the comments made by the honourable member. I will only say in response to the honourable member's question that we all know—I think everyone is aware—that particularly in a time of serious recession, the pressures on the WCB grow. This was true in the early 1980s and it's certainly true right now in the 1990s.

The board is wrestling with some very tough issues. In particular, the board is having to contend with the fact that the business community, as the member knows, and certainly he's expressed this thought on occasion, is very concerned about the WCB rates. The board has just made an announcement indicating that it's going to be doing everything it can to hold the line on the rates. At the same time, we have to recognize that particularly at a time of recession, the social pressures on the board grow and the demands on the board for its services, the need for more activity on rehabilitation, all those things grow.

Of course this government—I've already had some meetings with leaders of labour and management with respect to the issues around the WCB, and we're going to be continuing to do this as we look at attempting to deal with

what is a tough situation. But the board is certainly taking steps to deal with it.

Mr Harris: Mr Premier, it was in a speech that Mr Di Santo made on June 11, 1992, to the annual conference of the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada. It's very clear that things have run amok at the WCB. There's an \$11-billion unfunded liability. That debt is increasing by \$100 million each and every month. Now the WCB is spending \$200 million to build new office space at a time when our commercial vacancy rate is 23% and leases are available, by some estimates, for half the cost of this new building, and your chair is running around throwing his hands up in the air. Would you not agree with me, Premier, that it's becoming increasingly obvious that the big problem at WCB is management, that it's time for a new chair and a new management team at the Workers' Compensation Board of Ontario?

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Hon Mr Rae: The management team at the Workers' Compensation Board, the two senior appointments, consist of Mr Brian King, who is himself a disabled person, an injured worker who has worked his way to very effective management positions in the workers' compensation boards of both Manitoba and of Saskatchewan.

We find now, for example, that the costs of Bill 162 are 20% higher than the previous government said they would be. The WCB inherited a \$9-billion unfunded liability.

The chairman of the board is Mr Di Santo. Mr Di Santo has been involved—

Interjection.

Hon Mr Rae: Yes, he was a member of this Legislature and, yes, a member of the New Democratic Party. So was Robert Elgie. Lincoln Alexander was a politician. Mike Starr was a member of the Diefenbaker cabinet.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): You appointed your hack.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: I don't remember the member objecting to those appointments. I would say to the honourable member, Mr Di Santo—

Mr Harris: Answer the question.

Hon Mr Rae: I'm going to answer the question. I'm answering it as directly as I can.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the Premier take his seat, please.

Mr Harris: You sound like George Bush with his misinformation campaign.

The Speaker: Would the leader of the third party please take his seat.

The leader of the third party with his final supplementary.

Mr Harris: By way of final supplementary, let me say this to the Premier. The issue is not whether Mr Di Santo is a New Democrat or a Liberal or a Progressive Conservative. The issue is, he's chairman and he says, "It's out of control, falling apart and I can't do anything about it." That's the issue. That's his own admission.

We've pointed out to you—and I've pointed out in this Legislature time after time after time—things that are going wrong at WCB. Yes, you inherited a mess from the Liberals; we understand that. Yes, the deficit was \$9 billion. Now it's \$11 billion and it's still growing, and the situation is getting worse under your tenure and under your management.

Several times I stood in the House and raised the issue of fraud at the WCB. Today's *Globe and Mail* reports the problem is far worse than your government has admitted when I raised these issues. There is something wrong when an agency of the government has to investigate nearly 500 cases of potential fraud.

Premier, I ask you, as I have asked you and your government and your Minister of Labour many times before, will you today agree to call in the Provincial Auditor to get to the bottom of the problem at WCB, before any money is wasted—money, I might add, that should be going now and in the future to injured workers?

Hon Mr Rae: The auditor has constant access to the WCB. It's precisely the determination of the management of the board to deal with the problem as soon as it heard of it, as soon as it realized that things are now emerging. I say to the honourable member, the issues have to be dealt with and will be dealt with, and this is something which all the citizens of this province have an interest in because we all have a very strong public interest in ensuring that we have an effective, efficient Workers' Compensation Board and one that operates effectively.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Premier. Premier, last August in promising special assistance to peach farmers who had been hit by a recent hailstorm, you said: "We are going to have to respond quickly to this current hail situation. We've got to make sure that help goes to those who need it."

As we raised earlier in the House in your absence, the Minister of Agriculture and Food has now told Niagara farmers that no new financial assistance will be made available to peach farmers devastated by the hailstorm. Premier, the peach farmers of Niagara region have asked us to ask you personally how you can justify this broken promise.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): What I told the farmers when I met with them in August, two days after the hailstorm—the minister was there the day before me—and what we've said to people, has been constant through the piece; that is, first, the essential line has to be the crop insurance funds which are in place. What the minister said, and what I said to confirm it, was that if the government could respond in terms of a financial package, it would have to be done on a basis that recognized the fact that the integrity of the crop insurance fund had to be respected.

As I say, there are other steps that need to be taken, but the difficulty we have, obviously, in a time of great economic difficulty and great fiscal restraint, is how to respond, particularly at a time when the essential line of defence that's there and the one that was established and

supported by previous governments is the crop insurance fund.

Mrs McLeod: Premier, you told the farmers in Niagara region that help would reach those who need it. The Minister of Agriculture and Food, in this House, described to us the kind of help you were prepared to offer to the Niagara peach farmers. It was counselling assistance. The farmers will tell you, Premier, that counselling assistance is not going to help when the bank calls the loan.

Premier, your government has a very long record now of broken promises to farmers across the province. There was last year's decision to delay participation in the NISA program for income stabilization; there was \$5 million in unspent funds from last fall's special assistance package; there was a promise last spring in the budget of \$20 million in credit assistance under the agriculture investment strategy, a program which is not yet up and running and which will not help Niagara farmers or any other farmers in the current year.

Premier, given what is clearly your retreat from a promise that you made, how do you now expect farmers to believe anything you tell them?

Hon Mr Rae: I'm sure the member knows and I'm sure she also realizes that today is the day when my colleagues and I will be meeting with members of the executive of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and we'll be having a very thorough discussion of a number of issues.

I want to say to the honourable member, we have had to face the fact right across the board that we are in a difficult financial situation—we all recognize that—and that there are limits to what we can do. I think farmers understand that. I think farmers also understand that the purpose of having something like the crop insurance fund is precisely to protect people against disasters of this kind.

If there are improvements to be made to the crop insurance fund, the minister has already indicated he's prepared to look at that, but crop insurance has to be able to be seen as the basic line of defence against the kind of situations which are being described.

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): Also to the Premier, I'm sure the Premier's aware of the grave concerns that the rural community and farming community have about the two recent cuts in the budget, plus the cutback in the financial aid program that was promised last year. The Premier knows the concern farmers have over the Ministry of the Environment transferring decision-making on the authority of farm pesticides from a group that had some farmers involved to a downtown NDP group of bureaucrats who now control this. The Premier also knows that the Minister of Natural Resources is attempting and demanding the right to control what is a domestic farm animal. Mr Premier, can you explain to us this continued attack on agriculture by your cabinet and your government?

Hon Mr Rae: Quite the opposite. The minister has really done a superb job as the Minister of Agriculture and Food at a time of enormous difficulty. He has tried to respond effectively, given the restraints that we're working under.

We have developed new programs. We have tried to respond to crises as they've emerged. We have tried to make it more economic for people to farm and to deal with the overall financial and economic situation which we're facing, not only internally but also on world markets. I can say to the honourable member, our intention is to keep on encouraging that and to move in that direction in a positive and constructive way.

1440

Mr Villeneuve: If a 10% cut to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is an encouragement, I would hate to see the reverse of that.

You told farmers, Mr Premier, that the emergency assistance provided last year was cut because of higher than anticipated corn prices. Where in the world are you getting your advice, sir? There is something desperately wrong with that. The facts are that corn averaged \$101 a metric tonne last year, \$98 in September 1991, and it's been tragedy after tragedy.

Anywhere but in this chamber we could call the Premier something else but honest, but I will not use unparliamentary language, although it would be very easy at this particular point.

The Premier writes that Ontario has joined the national support program for agriculture, yet the per acre and the per bushel value is less than in any other province. The budget's been cut by 10%.

Mr Premier, please reverse the situation. Come across with the goods. Agriculture's in trouble. What do you anticipate to do in a positive nature next time?

Hon Mr Rae: I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to continue to work with other governments and we're going to continue to work with the farm community in the face of what is a very tough economic circumstance.

The member talks about cuts. I want to say to the honourable member that the Health budget has been restricted to the lowest rate of increase at any time since the introduction of medicare. This government has had to take some of the toughest decisions with respect to the operations of government.

If the honourable member looks around and listens to the language of his colleagues, what do they want? They want lower deficits, which we'd all love to have; they want fewer taxes, which would simply be superb. The Tory party can't have it all ways. You can try to have it all ways if you're in opposition. When you're in government, you have to take those tough decisions. You know it perfectly well. We all know it perfectly well. There are tough decisions that have to be made as we face what is, without question, the most difficult economic and financial circumstance this province has faced for many years.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Look who's talking.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question, the member for Lambton.

Interjections.

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): My question today—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Just a minute. Would the member take her seat.

I realize the members would like to get on with question period, and that would move a little more smoothly if the member for Etobicoke West would exercise some restraint. It would be very helpful.

DRUG BENEFITS

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): My question today is to the honourable Minister of Health. Madam Minister, it has been brought to my attention that a constituent in my riding of Lambton county was denied coverage of two drugs prescribed by her doctor. This was denied by the Ontario drug benefit plan, drugs which my constituent has been taking since 1984.

This situation is one where it took from last February until last week to even get a ruling by the drug plan branch. To make matters worse, my constituent is over 87 years of age and does not want to be a burden to her family for the cost of these drugs. No longer does she wish to take these drugs, and if she doesn't, she will simply die.

I find this unacceptable. I know the reputation and credibility of the doctor prescribing the drug, and I must say there's no doubt that these drugs are needed by my constituent. I also find it unacceptable that a resident of 87 years of age should have to be subject to such unnecessary trauma. What can be done to expedite a solution to this deplorable abuse of an 87-year-old Ontario resident who wishes to live her remaining years with dignity and who has never abused the system in any way?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I appreciate the opportunity to address the answer to the member. I've had certain conversations with the member where she has raised this case and have attempted to explain that there is information available which will help her assist her constituent.

Let me indicate that the drugs that are involved here are Trental and Persantine. Over a year ago, tighter regulations were put on the use of those two drugs under the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary. Trental is a drug that's used for circulation purposes. The Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee has made a finding that there are alternatives that are much more cost-effective that are on the formulary, and they can work with her physician to try to get substitute medication for her.

With respect to Persantine, under a special authorization, if the physician can provide legitimate reasons why the patient would require the drug, there is a process that could grant approval for use of that. But in many cases the drug is prescribed for general use, and in fact the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee will not qualify it for general use.

What I can say to the member is that we can try to work with her again. If she would like to have her constituent's physician call the DQTC, a member of the DQTC will work with the physician to help him determine what information needs to be provided to assist the case.

Mrs MacKinnon: Thank you, Madam Minister, for that. I will follow up on your suggestions.

Madam Minister, do you feel your ministry should be taking steps to eliminate the situation completely by having a procedure in place where a constituent such as I am speaking of would be exempt from having to go through this procedure every year?

Hon Ms Lankin: I'm not sure that I understand the member's question with respect to this being on an annual basis. If the information provided would warrant a decision from the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee to grant authorization, that authorization would stand for that prescription, then, for that particular patient.

One of the problems we have in the very particular case here is that the DQTC has not been able to obtain sufficient information from the physician involved to warrant a decision granting authorization for the coverage of these drugs. So again, we can try to work with the member's constituent's physician to indicate what kind of information is required. That may or may not allow the DQTC to arrive at a different determination.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): This is for the Premier. Premier, you'll recall that yesterday I asked you a question about the Sport Select Pro-Line gambling game and referred to the concern that I expressed about kids having access—you've got some briefing notes today, I see—to buy this in their corner stores. I appreciated your response. Not to quote you exactly, but I believe what you said is you would be concerned, as the father of three kids, if they were to have access to that.

Premier, in the *Toronto Star* it states that, "Tourism minister Peter North said there is a government policy—but no law—banning store owners from selling tickets to minors." It goes on to say, "Store owners could lose their lottery franchise for selling tickets to a child but that has never actually happened, lottery officials confirmed." Then Mr North said, "I don't know how much more strict you can be." When I went on to say, "If it's illegal to sell cigarettes to kids and illegal to sell booze to kids, why isn't it illegal to sell gambling tickets to kids?" The article continues, "North dismissed that option, saying laws against selling cigarettes to children aren't very effective."

Premier, do you agree with your minister that because, in his opinion, laws prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to kids are not effective, we should do nothing about this issue?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think I indicated my answer yesterday. I say to the honourable member that it's my understanding that while there is no law, it is the policy of the lottery commission to restrict the sale of lottery tickets to minors, and this policy, I'm told and I'm advised—and I have a briefing note here which I will share with the member—is communicated to retailers in a number of ways: through regular newsletters to retailers, through retailer training and through regular reminders on retailer lottery terminals. Whenever there's a complaint, there's an effort to contact the retailer and ensure that the policy is adhered to.

The member has now raised an issue with respect to what other action could be taken, and I can only say to the member that obviously we will consider the member's point of view and other issues with respect to this issue. I can say to the honourable member that it's an issue to which I had not turned my mind until the member raised it yesterday. When he raised it, it occurred to me that there's an issue that needs to be looked at. I told the member yesterday that it was something that we would be looking at, and I'm sure we'll be trying to make an assessment as to what the most effective regulatory mechanism might be.

1450

Mr Mahoney: I appreciate that, because I hadn't turned my mind to it until I actually saw kids buying these lottery tickets in the corner store and until some of the parents in my community contacted me. As a result of the activity yesterday, I've received a letter in my office, addressed to my executive assistant, from Brady Irwin, coordinator of government liaison.

Mr Irwin goes on in this letter to say: "Fortunately, most young people are not attracted to lotteries. On-line games such as Lotto 649 and Pro-Line are particularly unattractive to young people because the games do not offer immediate results." I'd like one of the pages to come and take this over to the Premier so he could turn his mind to this rather serious issue.

This is the literature that is put out on the game. You can see that it's 8.5 inches by 11 inches and has eight folds, several colours and several pictures of a celebrity who's very famous to young people, Mr Cherry—this is very critical, Mr Speaker—where he's quoted in here as saying: "Play to win. To help you rookies get going, I'm going to give you this game plan."

I wonder, are the rookies he's referring to maybe the senior citizens in the province? I'm curious as to whom he could be referring to. To quote Mr Irwin, who says "the games do not offer immediate results": You bet on three hockey games on Saturday night and on Sunday you pick up the winnings at the corner store. That's pretty darn immediate to me.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Mahoney: You bet on Monday night football and you get your dough on Tuesday morning.

Premier, I have drafted here a private member's bill which I will be introducing today, to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act by prohibiting the sale of lottery tickets to minors. A contravention of this bill would result in the—

The Speaker: Would the member please place his supplementary.

Mr Mahoney: —revocation of the authorization to sell lottery tickets. Mr Premier, will you support my private member's bill, which I'll be putting on the floor for first reading today, to ban the sale of these tickets to minors?

Hon Mr Rae: I recognize that while the member may not have turned his mind to the issue prior to the weekend, I think we all, any one of us who's been involved in politics,

recognize that he is responding, as one would expect him to respond, in an effective and direct way.

I want to say to him that I don't tend to indicate my approval or disapproval of legislation before I've had a chance to see it or read it, despite some of the things you might see. I would only say to the honourable member that anything he suggests is, of course, worthy of consideration.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): My question is for the Premier. Premier, very deep in the labour law, Bill 40, is an insidious clause which will lead to duplication. Section 23 deals with the role of labour arbitrators. The arbitrator will have the ultimate power to rule on employment relations legislation such as human rights. Bill 40 says an arbitrator or arbitration board shall make a final and conclusive settlement and has the power to interpret and apply the requirements of human rights.

In effect, this will make available to individuals two tribunals in which to file grievances, one under the Human Rights Commission and another under an arbitrator of the Ministry of Labour. How can you justify creating more duplication and confusion with the Ontario Human Rights Commission when there are already so many problems?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The intention is not to produce any duplication.

Mr Cousens: If that is the case, then you would have, in opportunity, accepted an amendment from our caucus that would have removed that possibility of duplication because, as it stands now, the labour arbitrator will be able to look at human rights issues and so will the Human Rights Commission. You could have duplication going on. In the one case you'll have maybe a different decision being made under Human Rights, and in the case under a labour arbitrator quite a different decision.

But the question which now comes under your Bill 40 law is, who pays for it? If a ruling is made by the Human Rights Commission, the taxpayers pay. If a ruling is made by an arbitrator, business pays. Are you not passing along another cost of doing business in Ontario?

Hon Mr Rae: The member is wrong when he refers to arbitration as simply business paying. The parties pay. The parties to an arbitration on both sides, both parties, both labour and management, are responsible for the funding of arbitrations.

This is actually something I know a little bit about, so perhaps I can just say to the honourable member that the purpose of granting the jurisdiction to the arbitrator is quite the opposite of what he's suggesting and indeed this, we believe, will be the effect of the legislation. It's to make clear the authority of the arbitrator to deal with human rights issues which are frequently raised and frequently have an impact on labour arbitrations. It's precisely intended to simplify the issue rather than otherwise.

It is not possible for us to limit the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission, but on a practical basis we do believe it is going to be possible for arbitrators to clearly be able to take into account a number of other factors. So rather than having two proceedings going at once or two

proceedings going off in different directions, there will be one proceeding under the arbitrator, if that's what the parties choose to do and that's how they choose to do it.

KIDNEY DIALYSIS

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I know that the member for St Catharines will be very interested in this because my question is to the Minister of Health.

Mr Speaker, I did want to make a small comment here. Frequently this House is presumed to be very adversarial, and in fact it is. But the member for St Catharines has been working very assiduously on this particular issue and working together with my colleagues from Niagara to try to get an upgrading of the kidney dialysis unit at the Hotel Dieu.

I know the minister is fully apprised of the situation. I am not going to go through my entire question but I'm going to ask the minister to update us all on what the situation is at the Hotel Dieu.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): An aggressive group of members from that part of the province.

To the member for St Catharines-Brock and her fellow MPPs in that area who have been constantly reminding me of the need for the ministry to move more quickly on this issue, I'm pleased to give you a very brief update. We have had ongoing discussions with the hospital. The hospital has been made very well aware that it is responsible for the cost of replacing existing equipment, and the ministry does acknowledge that there is a need to move on some of the most pressing issues while the redevelopment study is going on in order to get this kidney dialysis unit up and running.

The ministry and the hospital are this week finalizing the scope of the project and the estimated costs. There will be an announcement, I hope, within a few days.

Ms Haeck: I would like to not only thank, as I already have, the member for St Catharines, but there are a number of other people. One is Jack Leake, who has been a patient spokesperson and very much an advocate on this, besides being a patient.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Don't mention my name or you won't get in the Standard.

Ms Haeck: I'm sorry, Jim, you got in today, so what more did you want?

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): In the Standard?

Ms Haeck: Yes, he actually did get in the Standard; for all of the press gallery, he actually did get in the Standard this week.

Madam Minister, the solution for all of this is \$1.2 million and that's what the hospital is really looking for. Are we in any way in the ballpark to actually see this as a solution?

Hon Ms Lankin: I'm going to resist, I think, the request to get into negotiations here on the floor of the Legislature around the actual amount. What we are doing today and in the next couple of days is actually finalizing agreement between the ministry and the hospital about the scope of the project, and what we will do is notify the hospital in writing within the next few days of the final

decision with respect to what capital allowance the ministry will put into the project. I will guarantee you at that point in time I'll make sure that copies of that letter are available to you and to the other MPPs in that area whose constituents rely on the services of this kidney dialysis unit at this hospital.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Premier. It's to do with your standards and your standards of conduct, referring to the letter that you had sent to the Ontario Municipal Board chairman on September 16.

I always believed and I actually thought that you always believed that it was totally inappropriate for the Premier or any cabinet minister to write to the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board in support of a project, in support of an expedited hearing. I always thought that. Yet on September 16 your executive assistant, acting on your behalf, sent a letter to the chairman of the OMB. This letter spoke both in support of the project and in support of an expedited hearing.

My question is very simple, Premier: Is it now your position that it is acceptable for the Premier's Office to write to the chairman of the OMB indicating your support for a project that is before the OMB and requesting an expedited hearing?

1500

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think I've answered this question on several occasions, when it's been posed to me, as clearly as I possibly can.

Mr Romano wrote the letter. I say to the honourable member that, first of all, the government is directly involved as a partner in the project. It is a project which has the full support of the ministries of the government. In terms of proceeding, it involves an extension of the infrastructure in Metropolitan Toronto which this government has been very supportive of. I might add that previous governments were supportive of the project as well in terms of encouraging it to go ahead with the city of York.

The OMB has a number of issues to deal with with respect to zoning and other questions. It's up to the OMB to determine those, but as I say, with respect to the hearing itself, Mr Kruger, I think, has made it extremely clear that he has full authority to determine when the hearings will take place and on what dates. He certainly understands that the government's position is very clear, as we are, in effect—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the Premier conclude his response, please?

Hon Mr Rae: Together with the city of York and the developers, a number of ministries are parties to the process. The OMB has full carriage of the decision as to when and whether the hearings will be held, and certainly has full carriage with respect to whatever outcome emerges from its decision.

Mr Phillips: Premier, you were wrong to do it. You should simply have said you were wrong. You didn't know

it happened; it was wrong. You are defending the indefensible. Every single person in your cabinet knows it's wrong. Every single person in the House knows it's wrong. When you were in opposition, you would have been all over this. You can't write to a quasi-judicial body supporting a project. It has nothing to do with whether the government supports it. You can't write the letter.

I'll just ask the question clearly and simply again: Is it now your standard that it is acceptable for the Premier's office to write to the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board in support of a project that is before that board for a quasi-judicial decision?

Hon Mr Rae: Mr Romano, who is in my constituency office, wrote a letter with respect to the scheduling of dates for a hearing. Those are the facts.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Burlington South.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): That's wrong. That's a lie.

Interjections.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): My question is to the Premier. Premier, in your throne speech—

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Jackson: —you made the unusual statement that your government intended to listen to the concerns—

The Speaker: The member for Burlington South will get his question, because I did recognize him before the disorder. I would ask the member for York Centre if he would withdraw the unparliamentary word which was heard in the chamber, inappropriate language, as he knows.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, the Premier said, "My constituency assistant wrote on a matter of scheduling."

The Speaker: No. Would the member for York Centre take his seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the member to please take his seat. It's a very straightforward matter. I simply asked the member to withdraw the unparliamentary word which was used, that's all, and I ask the member to do so now.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, I will withdraw that and say that the Premier misrepresented himself in this—

The Speaker: The member for Burlington South with his question. To whom is it directed?

Mr Jackson: To the Premier, again. Premier, in your throne speech you indicated that you were going to be listening to those voices—

Mr Sorbara: —any court if this is all right.

The Speaker: I ask the member for York Centre to please come to order

Mr Sorbara: Nothing left. Don't do it.

The Speaker: If the member is a cause of disorder, he will have to be named.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I caution the member for York Centre. He is about to be named.

Mr Sorbara: You are counselling interference with a quasi-judicial body.

The Speaker: The member is leaving the Speaker with no recourse but to name him if he refuses to come to order.

The member for Burlington South with his question.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I only get three shots at this, right, Mr Speaker?

Premier, my question has to do with children's aid society funding. I've been asking you about the issue of your throne speech, where you said you were going to listen to those voices which traditionally haven't been heard by governments and say no to groups that have been speaking too loudly.

Earlier in question period, you questioned why the Conservatives are taking up causes such as children's aid societies, where their deficits this year are in the multimillions of dollars and your government is cutting funding to them. Yet you can find money in the millions and millions of dollars, \$97 million to be exact, to build redundant and surplus non-profit day care centres to pursue your ideological program, or \$14-some million dollars for the largely symbolic gesture of bilingual road signs.

Why is it then, not as you said in your throne speech, that you're saying no to the vulnerable children who need help and protection under the law and yet you can say yes to these other ideological programs of your government? Where is your sense of priority for the children in this province?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'll refer that to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): This government has a very strong commitment to the children of this province.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Run away.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Bye, Bob.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Bye, Bobby. Little Bobby's going out.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): If everyone's said their goodbyes, perhaps the minister could have the floor to respond.

Hon Mrs Boyd: This government has a very strong commitment to children. It interests me that every time the member talks about children's aid societies, he brings in his own ideology around child care. We believe that child care is an important front-line prevention in terms of children, one that supports the work of children's aid societies because of early identification of problems for children.

The member is well aware of the financial difficulties we face in terms of the constraint measures and how we are working with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and all of our children's aid societies to try to deal with the very real constraints they are facing, for the first time in many years. It is very difficult for those communities, very difficult for the volunteer boards of di-

rectors, for the staff and for all the children and parents who are served. It is something we are trying to deal with from a community base and within the means the government has, particularly given the cap on the Canada assistance plan, which is creating a lot of our difficulty in providing services for children.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Last week when you made your ruling in writing, I had requested that you put it in writing because you offer us precedents with respect to going from committee of the whole to the House. There were no precedents outlined in your ruling, and—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the member for Etobicoke West please take his seat. This matter has been dealt with. It is not a matter for debate. If the member is looking for some explanations with respect to the rules, I would invite him to either visit the table, the Clerk's office or indeed my own office. I'd be very pleased to discuss the rules with him.

Mr Stockwell: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: A new point of order?

Mr Stockwell: You never even heard my last one, so I don't know how you'd know if it was new or not.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West is being directed to take his seat. There is nothing out of order.

1510

PETITIONS

ONTARIO HYDRO

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): I have a very important petition here, addressed to the Premier of the province that reads as follows:

"Dear Premier:

"As my elected leader I want you to immediately:

"(1) freeze Ontario Hydro rates;

"(2) stop costly Ontario Hydro megaprojects, massive dams, transformer and generating stations and lengthy transmission lines and promote the implementation of cogeneration, NUGs, energy conservation etc;

"(3) cancel all current Ontario Hydro environmental assessment hearings; and,

"(4) promote economic and social accountability by permitting competition to offer an alternative to the monopoly now held by Ontario Hydro."

This has been signed by 10,000 persons.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I have here a petition to the members of provincial Parliament.

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric

of society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship to many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

This petition is signed by members from the Cambridge area and I have attached my name to the petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario to "reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

It's signed by 66 residents of Middlesex county and I've affixed my signature.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The point of order I'm making to you—before you rule me out of order, I would just like to make it. The point of order is: When I ask you to provide in writing some precedents for the decision of moving from committee of the whole to the House and then back to committee of the whole, you undertook that and you said you'd get back to this House in writing.

Upon reading your ruling, you provided no precedent as to history about going from the House, after 6 pm, back into the committee of the whole. I ask you, Mr Speaker, was that simply because—and you can respond now or in writing or choose not to; it's your decision as the Speaker—there isn't any precedent or is it simply because you didn't have time to review it through the books?

I'm asking very specifically, is there any precedent which provided the decision that you made that moved this House back to the committee of the whole after 6 o'clock?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Etobicoke West, the member tries the patience of the Speaker greatly, but I will—

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the member to take his seat. A point of order was raised. A ruling on the point of order was provided. If the member wishes information with respect to procedure, precedents or anything else related to a ruling, he is more than welcome to visit my office or the office of the Clerk or to indeed visit the table officers.

I cannot nor should I do more than that because what the member is really doing, indirectly, which he knows he cannot do directly, is to challenge a ruling that was made.

GAMBLING

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have a petition to members of the provincial Parliament of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula.

"We believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular.

"We believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activities.

"By our signatures here attached, we ask you to not license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have one from Carleton United Church in St Catharines, Ontario, regarding an amendment to the Retail Business Holidays Act, promised wide-open Sunday shopping and the elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday.

It reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I agree with the petition of the parishioners of Carleton United Church and affix my signature to it indicating that agreement.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition signed by some 50 people from Ontario. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I agree with this petition, and I have signed it.

ABORTION

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I have a petition sent to me by Florence Vanden-Ende, the president of Cambridge Right to Life. The petition is as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas children are our most valuable resource and our only link with the future; and

"Whereas the destruction of pre-born babies is against natural and divine law;

"We, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to stop funding abortions, to give expectant mothers pertinent information, to assist women with problem pregnancies through their pregnancy to the birth of their baby, and to promote chastity among young people."

I have attached my signature to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I have a petition signed by 60 residents of my community. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the Lieutenant Governor:

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition to wide-open Sunday business.

"We believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families.

"The proposed amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I have signed my name to this.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I have a petition here signed by 33 residents of the county of Middlesex who respectfully ask the members of the Legislative Assembly "to set aside the report by arbitrator John Brant in connection with the greater London area arbitration because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority. It awards too extensive an area of annexation to the city of London. It will jeopardize agricultural land, the viability of the county of Middlesex and our rural way of life."

I have signed my name to this petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

This is a petition that's been signed by thousands of workers in this province, and I affix my signature to it.

1520

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RULING

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): This petition comes from the Catholic Women's League of St Ambrose parish in Cambridge and has been forwarded by the convener, Annalee Steden.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Ontario Human Rights Commission, in its September 1 ruling, extended full family and bereavement benefits to same-sex arrangements; and

"Whereas this is believed by Catholic women as detrimental to family and society;

"We, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the Honourable Howard Hampton, Attorney General of the province of Ontario, to appeal this ruling of the Human Rights Commission."

It is signed by several hundred members and constituents, and I've attached my name to this petition.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a new petition on market value which I think very clearly states the position of the city of Toronto:

"To the Legislative of Ontario:

"Whereas Metro Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived plan to bring in market value assessment, in spite of the solid opposition of the city of Toronto; and

"Whereas we believe market value as a basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto is the wrong tax, at the wrong time, in the wrong place; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relation to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas if the province changes legislation to deny the city of Toronto the right to determine our own method of property tax reform, Toronto home owners, tenants and businesses will in future be left to the mercy of regional government; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and our small businesses will be devastated by further increases; and

"Whereas city of Toronto residents account for 29% of Metro's population, but Toronto taxpayers foot 40% of Metro's bills;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto, and to allow each local municipality in Metro Toronto the autonomy to determine our own method of property tax reform in our own municipality."

I will be signing this because I totally agree with these sentiments.

LAYOFFS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a petition signed by several Ontario residents. It reads as follows:

"Whereas the general level of unemployment in Ontario is extremely high and has caused severe hardship for individuals and their families; and

"Whereas hundreds of firms in Ontario have filed for bankruptcy and have had their employees join the ranks of those on the unemployment rolls; and

"Whereas youth unemployment is higher in Ontario than in all other provinces; and

"Whereas General Motors may announce several plant closings, with resulting job losses, this month, and the presence of the Premier in the province is necessary to persuade General Motors to keep all of its Ontario operations open;

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to cancel his impending trip to Asia and to remain in North America to present Ontario GM workers' case to General Motors officials and to respond to important and urgent questions about the Ontario economy in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

I happen to agree with this petition. I affix my signature to it, showing my agreement.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Metro Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived plan to bring in market value assessment, in spite of the solid opposition of the city of Toronto; and

"Whereas we believe market value as a basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto is the wrong tax, at the wrong time, in the wrong place; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relation to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas if the province changes legislation to deny the city of Toronto the right to determine their own method of property tax reform, Toronto home owners, tenants and businesses will in future be left to the mercy of regional governments; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and our small businesses will be devastated by further increases; and

"Whereas city of Toronto residents account for 29% of Metro's population, but Toronto taxpayers foot 40% of Metro's bills;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto, and to allow each local municipality in Metro Toronto the autonomy to determine our own method of property tax reform in our own municipality."

I will sign this because I fully agree with its sentiments.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr White from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr49, An Act to revive Eilpro Holdings Inc

Your committee begs to report the following bills as amended:

Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Burlington

Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed? Agreed.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's 17th report.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Does the member wish to make a brief statement?

Pursuant to standing order 106(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DES LOTERIES DE L'ONTARIO

On motion by Mr Mahoney, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 92, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société des loteries de l'Ontario

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Does the honourable member wish to make a few comments?

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I'd just like to point out to members of the House that this bill amends the Ontario Lottery Corp Act by prohibiting the sale of lottery tickets to minors. A contravention of the bill would result in the revocation of the authorization to sell lottery tickets. It arises out of concern in the community about the new Pro-Line lottery from Sport Select, where children, young people, have the opportunity and have full access in their retailers and their corner stores to actually bet on sporting events, usually played on the weekend and including Monday night football.

It's my hope that if the House were to proceed with this act, it would put in place a law that would prohibit the sale of all lottery tickets, not just this one, to anyone under the age of 18 and would result in the offending party, if they were to sell lottery tickets to young people, losing their licence.

I would hope that this House would support speedy approval of second and third reading on that particular piece of legislation.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI A TRAIT AUX RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL ET À L'EMPLOI

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Mr Mackenzie has moved third reading of Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment. Does the honourable minister have a few remarks? Oh, the parliamentary assistant—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The minister may have some remarks, but the parliamentary assistant may not have some remarks. I ask that the member for Mississauga North now be heard.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Sudbury on a point of order.

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would just like to say that I believe we have unanimous consent to divide the time up evenly. Is that not correct?

Mr Elston: We do.

Ms Murdock: Okay. Well, that has to be cleared, Mr Elston.

The Acting Speaker: Let me just clarify the situation, because there is some confusion in the House. The minister actually moving the motion counts as a presentation from that side of the House and therefore, according to the standing orders, we have to move in rotation to the honourable member for the opposition. So I recognize the honourable member for Mississauga North.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: First, I understand there has been unanimous agreement to equalize the time. That's the only point I wanted to make.

The Acting Speaker: Is it agreed among the three parties that the time is split? I believe that agreement was reached. For just today, or for both days?

Ms Murdock: For both days.

Mr Elston: For today.

The Acting Speaker: Okay, I hear there's unanimous agreement for one day. If that is so, then there is unanimous agreement for today, and I'd ask the honourable member for Mississauga North to begin.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): The third reading of this particular bill has gotten off to a rocky start, but that's quite typical of this bill, which is about how this bill particularly started. I know the time allocation motion by the government is, without question, drawing this bill to an end, and it's drawing this bill to an end notwithstanding some very serious and deep concerns by a variety of individuals throughout this province.

I believe the process the government has used in bringing this bill forward is one which is, in a word, reprehensible. It is reprehensible because of the fact that they sought, after the introduction of this bill on June 4 of this year, 90 minutes later, to introduce new rules of procedure.

Those rules of procedure did nothing less than grease the procedure in which this bill will become law. It shut down debate; it curtailed public hearings in a committee; it shut the door on hundreds and hundreds of groups and associations that wished to be heard on this bill, representing hundreds of thousands of Ontario citizens.

I have said it before and I'll say it again: The legacy of this bill will be one of shutting the door on people with concerns about how their province is to grow, how their province is to respect the rights of individuals throughout this province. For that, it is one which I believe the government will have to defend, and I believe it is indefensible.

I will address my comments today to some of the substantive concerns which I and my party have with respect to this bill and which we have brought forward on a number of occasions. It is unfortunate that, notwithstanding the concerns brought forward not only by our party but by many other people in this province, the government has continually refused to listen. They have continually refused to listen to people who are concerned about the actions of a government which has repealed the preamble of the Labour Relations Act of Ontario. I think, for those watching, they should be well aware as to what the preamble of the current Ontario Labour Relations Act states:

"Whereas it is in the public interest of the province of Ontario to further harmonious relations between employers and employees by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining between employers and trade unions as the freely designated representatives of employees."

That is the preamble to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. It is a preamble that speaks about cooperation; it is a preamble that speaks about a public interest to further harmonious relations between employers and employees, and it is a preamble that the NDP government has repealed.

No longer in the province of Ontario will this preamble, which set the stage for a balance of interests, which set the stage for a framework and a principle for employers and employees to discuss their issues of mutual concern, be the guiding principle in labour relations in Ontario.

What has the government sought to put in its stead? Nothing. There is no longer a preamble to this bill. There is no longer a series of principles which will go through the bill. There is no longer that stream of understanding, cooperation and harmony which has always been the hallmark of the Labour Relations Act of Ontario, and for that this government is once more in an indefensible position.

I move to the area where the government has again turned its back on so many individuals, and that is the need for an economic impact analysis. That's not a business argument. The government would want to have you believe that that is somehow an argument that only business puts forward. As the Labour critic for our party, I have received concerns not just from the business community—though without question I have received concerns from business groups and associations—but from employees, workers in this province who are very concerned that the job they have today will be there tomorrow. They wanted the government to conduct an economic impact statement. They wanted the government to take a look at these changes with a view to seeing what impact it will have on our agricultural sector.

I've spoken earlier on about the changes that are being made to the agricultural sector. They want to know what the changes will be to the manufacturing sector, what the impact of these changes will be on the retail sector, on the service sector, on the small, medium and large business sectors of this province. It isn't just the so-called business community that wants that; it's the workers within those groups who want that. They want to know. They want to be aware. They want to be confident that this bill and these

changes will not have an effect on investment, job creation and job security.

From day one, the government has failed to deal with what I believe is a paramount responsibility. In this era of competition, not to go through an economic statement, an impact analysis as to what this bill will mean in the area of jobs and investment is irresponsible. It is irresponsible to the many hundreds of thousands of people who find themselves without a job. It is irresponsible to the many workers in this province who are afraid of whether their job today will be there tomorrow.

It is an issue which has been brought forward time and time again by people across this province saying that it is the responsibility of governments to know what the impact of legislation is going to be, not only before they introduce it into the legislation but before they pass it into law. It is irresponsible to the 500,000-odd workers who are out of work, many for the very first time in their lives. They were asking, pleading with the government, "Before you move forward on a bill of this kind, know what its impact is; know what it means when you speak about these different provisions." To this date, and as we move to the last hours of this bill, the government has continually turned its back on that.

Again, it is indefensible of this government not to have conducted an economic impact statement. It is indefensible for this government to have repealed a preamble which spoke about harmony, consultation and consensus in labour-management relations. It is indefensible that the government seeks to introduce and pass into law a bill which takes away the rights of workers in this province.

I have said this on earlier occasions. I, as the Labour critic for our party, brought forward this matter in the committee stage. This is a bill in a variety of areas which, far from protecting and enhancing the rights of workers in this province, takes away from the rights of workers in this province.

I've spoken about what it means that in an organizing drive a worker be informed as to what his or her rights are under the Labour Relations Act. This bill does not do that. This bill is silent on informing the worker as to what his or her rights will be. When we brought forward amendments which would make it mandatory, which would make it compulsory for workers to be apprised of what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act, the government voted down that provision.

1540

When we brought forward amendments which would make it mandatory, which would make it compulsory for workers to be apprised of what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act, the government voted down that provision.

When we brought forward amendments with respect to communication between workers in an organizing drive, that no communication should be made unless it is, firstly, with the approval of the Labour Relations Board and, secondly, in the presence of a member of the Labour Relations Board so that a worker would not have to feel any intimidation or coercion, the government again voted that down.

When we sought to reduce the threshold needed for a secret ballot vote, when we sought to reduce the threshold from 40% to 30% as the trigger point in order to have a secret ballot vote, the government voted it down.

They voted down giving to the workers of this province the right to decide, democratically, free from intimidation and coercion, the way in which they want their workplace governed.

This is not a bill, as I've said many times, whether one is in favour of or opposed to unionization. This is a bill which I believe must give to workers the democratic right to choose how their workplace is to be governed, and this bill does not.

We sought to introduce amendments that would bring that forward in this bill and in the Labour Relations Act. When those amendments were brought forward, when we brought forward amendments that dealt with giving the right to workers to decide democratically whether they do or do not wish to be unionized, and to do so by a majority, and to do so free of intimidation and coercion, and to do so with full knowledge as to what their rights are under the Labour Relations Act of the province of Ontario, the government voted it down.

This is a bill which does not protect the rights of workers. It is a bill which takes away the rights of workers. It's a bill which I believe attacks the rights of individuals and workers on another front, because I do not want to leave this bill without discussing my concerns with the replacement worker prohibition. The Ministry of Labour's own statistics say that the replacement incidence in strikes is very low, but yet they have brought forward a prohibition for replacement workers. In other words, if there is a strike, replacement workers cannot be brought in.

There are those on the government side who will want, I'm sure, to vote in favour of that, but we have to ask ourselves this question: I do not, and my party does not, deny the right of workers to associate to join a union of their choice and, yes, within the bounds of law to strike, but if we can agree and accept those rights and principles, then why can we not also accept the right of employers to attempt as best they can to keep their business operating? Why does one right necessarily have to exclude another right?

I do not believe it does. I believe that both rights can be embraced under the law, but the government has sought to cut out the rights of one over the rights of another. It is in this area which I would hope the government members would recognize the concerns were not just heard from the business community. Yes, concerns were heard by a variety of individuals representing business interests. They did come before the committee and expressed to the members what they felt the impact of that would be.

It wasn't just the business community that brought forward those concerns. Representatives from the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies brought their concerns forward on what this prohibition will mean to them in carrying out their responsibilities, which are to act in the best interests of children. They said that this prohibition will affect them. It will affect them and their ability to intake children, to assess children, to supervise visitations

of children. For that reason, this government should have said, "The impact of the bill is one which is a far-reaching effect which we cannot support," but they turned their back on the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

School boards came before the committee and said, "Look at what the impact will be on school bus operators and children in the event that there is a strike of school bus operators." There are many communities in which the only way children get to school is through the school bus. The parents can't take their children; they can't pick them up; they can't provide the safety and security that is necessary. What did the government do when that matter was brought forward? They turned their backs on that issue, and I believe it is one which again strikes against the prohibition of replacement workers.

When municipalities came forward and expressed concerns about the prohibition of replacement workers; when gas companies came forward; when professional engineers came forward; when Hydro came forward; when a variety of individuals, who I would expect are not categorized by the government in the so-called business community, came forward with serious and severe concerns about what the impact of replacement worker prohibition would mean to them, the government turned its back.

The government steadfastly moved to make this bill law without any appreciation as to what the impact is going to be on our children, on the users of hydro services in this province, on the users of gas utilities in this province, on any resident who resides in a municipality in this province. For some ideological reason, they steadfastly move forward when all evidence shows that the impact is going to be something for which you are going to rue the day.

You are going to look back at this day and tomorrow and say, "Why didn't we know?" The fact of the matter is, you did know. These people did come before the committee. They knew that the process was shortened by your dictatorial rules of procedure, that all those who wished to have been heard could not be heard. They knew we were operating under what is called a time allocation motion, whereby each member in this Legislature would not be given the right to fully debate this issue, but they did come forward and, in the shortened time that was allotted to them, did bring forward these concerns.

It will not be an answer by the government to say, "We didn't realize what the impact of this matter would be." The business community, the social agencies of this province, have said, "Do not move forward with this bill until you know the impact of the bill," but the government, for some reason, some ideological purpose, blind to the fact of the competitive demands of the day, continued to move forward. I believe that's not in the best interests of the workers of this province. I do not believe it is in the best interests of the future prosperity of this province. I do not believe it is in the best interests of our children and our children's children in this province.

In the replacement worker provision—I must touch upon this point before moving on—currently under the Labour Relations Act of the province of Ontario, a worker who is on strike has the right to return to work during that strike. A worker, looking at his own situation, his own

needs, his own family requirements, has the right to return. Under the current Ontario Labour Relations Act, the employer must hire that person back even during a strike: an important protection for workers.

This government has repealed that section. No longer in the province of Ontario, during a strike, will a worker, after taking a look at what his or her needs will be, have the right to return to his or her job. No longer will they have that right, and that I feel is another example of taking away from the rights of workers in this province. It is something which I believe is indefensible. The government cannot defend taking away the right of workers to return to work during a strike, looking at their own families, deciding what is in the best interests of them and making, yes, a difficult decision, but making a decision. The government has no business taking away that right. You have no business taking away the opportunity of a worker to meet the needs of his or her own family. You have taken away that right. You have taken away the right of a worker to say, "My family has certain needs and I want to be able to make what is a difficult decision, but make the decision nevertheless." You took it away under the Labour Relations Act.

1550

When people came before the committee, no matter how shortened those hearings were, and said, "You have no right to do that. We do not care what your ideological basis is. You don't have the right to take that away," the government members turned their backs on those workers. They turned their backs on the part-time and full-time workers of this province who feel they should have the right to dictate how their workplace is to be governed. You took away their rights. You took away their rights during a strike; you took away their rights during an organizing drive; you took away their rights as to how the workplace is to be governed.

I'll tell you another thing: You did so while sending out the negative message as to whether this is a province where you should invest. So you will have to live with this. You will have to live with the fact that the message you have sent is totally negative: that this is not a province to invest, that it is not a province where an existing company should expand, where new jobs should be created or where existing jobs should be secured.

I heard from a great many people, not just the business community, but none the less the business community; not just the big business community, but many people who are within what is called the small business sector. They had concerns. The government turned their backs. They turned their backs in repealing a preamble which has served this province well, which has built a balance, labour and management, which has been a foundation for building this province, for creating jobs and creating wealth. They turned their backs on workers' rights.

There is no one on the government side who can say in any way that Bill 40 increases workers' rights, protects workers' rights or enhances workers' rights. You took away from businesses—yes, let's say that—that are trying to compete in a global economy, that recognize that competition is not just somebody located around the corner but

rather is people over the horizon, you took away their rights, because you know as well as I that when this bill becomes law, we will have the only jurisdiction in North America with laws of this kind. You have to ask yourself, is it worth taking away the rights of workers, is it worth putting businesses in a less competitive stage, to meet some ideological basis, ideological finding, ideological principle that is going to harm the future of this province? I think not.

I have spoken on a number of occasions, not only within this chamber but outside, on this bill. I spoke in opposition to the bill. I and my party will be voting against the bill. We will be voting against the bill because of what it takes away from workers. We will be voting against this bill as to what it does to businesses' competitive edge in this province. We will be voting against this bill because of the fact that I believe it will result in a loss of investment, that it will result in an attack on new job creation, that it will erode the security of existing jobs, and that the jobs that are here today may not be there tomorrow.

For those who speak to the "hysterical" response by others in opposition to the bill, let me say this: There were many people who came before the committee who spoke in opposition to the bill. They did not speak in opposition to changes to the Labour Relations Act, but they did say that if change is to occur, then surely it must be accomplished in a cooperative, consensual manner. I believe that can be done.

I believe this bill and the Labour Relations Act must be changed. Changes are necessary to ensure that workers have the democratic right to choose as to how their workplace is to be governed. This bill and this act must be changed in order to send out a positive message, to restore the positive climate of investment in this province, to change this bill to make certain that new jobs are created and existing jobs are secured, and that changes must be made in a way where management and labour and government work together.

Bill 40 and the process the government has undertaken is one which has divided. It has created a polarity of interests where wounds have been created which will take years to heal. The actions of the government, the actions of the Premier of the province and the actions of the Minister of Labour from day one have sought to create two sides and to build a distance between those sides.

I believe that is something which is not in the best interests of the province of Ontario, it's not in the best interests of the workers of Ontario and it's not in the best interests of the future of this province. I and my party will be voting against this bill. We'll be voting against what this bill has taken away from workers, what this bill has taken away from the business community. We'll be voting against this bill because of the process of division and conflict and polarization that the government has used in bringing this bill forward.

This is a bill which I believe is not in the best interests of the people in this province and is not in the best interests of the workers in this province. It is not in the best interests of the future prosperity of this province.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for Nipissing.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Thanks, Mr Speaker; I appreciate the opportunity. I would like to request, and I believe there's been some discussion, unanimous consent to have our lead speaker on this, our critic for the Ministry of Labour, deferred until tomorrow.

The Acting Speaker: I just want to say to the honourable member for Nipissing that there was unanimous consent that we split the time three ways. So whoever the third party would wish to speak at this point is quite acceptable to the House.

Mr Harris: That's fine, Mr Speaker, as long as my whip is satisfied that Ms Witmer, our critic, will have more than half an hour to speak—which would be contrary to the rules regardless of the time allocation. If I could have unanimous consent that the understanding is that, then under the time allocation that would be fine.

The Acting Speaker: I'd say to the honourable member, to clarify that, the unanimous agreement that was made in the House was made on the basis of this day only and did not include the second day.

Mr Harris: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Contrary to what you just told me, the table has indicated that we can split the time any way we see fit. I believe the Minister of Labour plans to do the same thing. Tomorrow, then, Ms Witmer can take whatever amount of time is required.

1600

I will not be very long. I spoke at some length yesterday, as members in the chamber will recall. I've spoken at great length on this issue on a number of occasions. After the motion that I brought forward yesterday to defer Bill 40, to ask the government to withdraw it, to not proceed, I regret, of course, very much that my motion yesterday did not carry and that the advice I proffered yesterday in this Legislature was not taken.

I perhaps naively had expected that the Premier, as he heads off to Asia and to various countries, would want to take something with him, would want to have something to sell. I can think of absolutely nothing that would better have sent out a signal to potential investors, to potential entrepreneurs and companies around the world that Ontario is open for business than to say: "We have scrapped Bill 40. We will not proceed unilaterally with the labour position over the objection of what should be an equal partner in this, management or investors or owners or entrepreneurs or the risk-takers. We will sit down and work on a 50-50, equal basis until we can come up with agreement as to what will work and make sense." So I regret, actually, that I'm on my feet today and I regret that we're dealing with third reading of this legislation today.

I don't want to, as I indicated, dwell at great length. I've made my points before. I've talked about this legislation, as you will recall, that it will kill jobs. It's job-killing legislation just as sure as I'm standing here. It's the motive I talked about yesterday: This is payback time to the vested interests. These are the ones that financed and put the workers out on the streets to elect the Minister of Labour

and elect the Premier and elect this government. This is what they seem to want, regardless of the fact that it will kill jobs, regardless of the fact that it takes away the democratic rights, in perpetuity, of workers, of working men and women. I really regret that.

I talked yesterday about the tragedy of the confrontation that it is creating. It's ironic, a piece of legislation that the Premier, the Minister of Labour and members of the cabinet of this NDP government all say the reason for is to bring business and labour together, get them working together, that this must happen, that management and workers must form a new partnership, new alliances in the future if we are to be successful. Of course, I'm saying the same thing, if we are going to catch up to the Europeans, to Germany, to Japan, to some of the other countries that have learned how to bring together workers and owners, management and representatives of workers, unions, bring them together to make sure that you can get a pie before you cut it and figure out who gets what piece of the pie.

I want to mention now—some will think it's a little out of context—that in many of Frank Stronach's companies certainly, I'm sure, a number of the unions will want to get the revenue generated if they can unionize Magna or some of the Magna factories and plants.

There is a good example of how management, ownership and workers have come together and agreed how they will share the pie. So that's not at issue. In fact, the owners cannot change that formula without the agreement of the workers, and having simply come together and set out that structure, they then are working together.

Of course, it's a huge success story, even within the confrontational framework of unions today, particularly in North America, and how dramatically different our unions are than European unions and Japanese unions, Asian unions. They're 20 years behind in Canada and North America in trying to think that the issue is who has more power, where in other jurisdictions they've set aside the issue of who has how much power and they work together for the benefit of the company, the workers, the families, their communities and, of course, their provinces.

I really regret that the government has decided to proceed. I find it ironic, too, and really sad, which perhaps is the right word, that the Premier, if he's to be believed—and I guess one should try to do that; it's difficult these days—says he's going to Asia to tell them that he's proceeding with Bill 40, to tell them that he's proceeding to give more power to unions, to tell them that this miraculous new law is coming into place in Ontario. This is what the Premier tells me is one of the reasons for his trip.

In Sault Ste Marie he spoke and said, "The key to economic renewal in Ontario is Bill 40, this labour legislation, giving more power to the unions." So if he is to be believed, he thinks this is what Asian investors want to hear. He is so out of touch with what is going on around the world, so out of touch with investors and potential investors anywhere in the world. This is the last thing they want to hear.

If he wanted to take good news, he'd say: "We've rethought our position. We're going to wait until we can get agreement, come together in a tripartite way." But he actu-

ally seems to think that by telling them he's jamming this down the throats of investors and business and one of the key partners in the framework, they're going to want to hear that.

I have spoken to people who are doing business all around the world, to consultants, to entrepreneurs, to investors, to international companies. They couldn't believe it when our Premier went to Japan—I don't know whether it was six or eight months ago—and gave a whole speech about the labour legislation. Several representatives of this one company were there and they talked afterwards, and to a person, in that audience he spoke to, they were distressed, were less likely to invest in Ontario. They couldn't believe it was happening, couldn't believe the Premier was so stupid to tell them.

I say to you, Mr Speaker, and I say to the Premier—I guess he's gone. I think he's winged his way off for 16 days. Perhaps the combination of the police and market value assessment was too much for him, so he just decided to flee the problems and leave them behind. Perhaps that's why he left. Perhaps that's why he's not here today. Perhaps that's why he decided to leave the province.

I very, very much regret it, and I am saddened for the workers of this province, saddened for the working men and women. There was a comment, and I don't always agree with Jean Chrétien, but Jean Chrétien said—and I won't phrase it exactly—that there's nothing more nervous than \$1 million. I believe I may be paraphrasing a little bit, but I think you understand. There's nothing more nervous than \$1 million.

As we all know, capital, as many have pointed out, can leave like that, so the investors will not be hurt. They can invest in other provinces, in other countries, in other jurisdictions. They will not be hurt; it is the workers, those who will lose their jobs, those who will not have the jobs as this restructuring is going on all around us while this government seems to be sitting back and just watching it.

A lot of the traditional jobs are disappearing. The new ones are emerging and they're coming forward. The restructuring is taking place, but the new jobs aren't coming in Ontario. Yes, there are a few. In spite of government, there are a few. There are some that can't leave. There are some that are so committed to this province and this country that they're saying even though it's unprofitable and it's really a dumb economic decision, they're going to go ahead anyway. We understand that.

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Some of them are saying, "We don't think Bob Rae will be the government two years from now. There will be politicians with courage to scrap this nonsense, so we'll take a chance that is the case." I think it's a 100% sure thing. I tell them that, and that's how I encourage them to invest in spite of this government and its policies.

But I feel sorry; I really do. I feel sorry for the workers, I feel sorry for their families, I feel sorry for their children, because they're being hurt today and they're being hurt tomorrow with this legislation. Their future will not be as bright as it could have been had this government taken a cooperative approach in looking at any changes to the

Labour Relations Act in the context of how you truly get management and labour working together.

In spite of the babblings and natterings from the backbenchers that the Premier has found a way to control, we will oppose this legislation. We will vote against it on third reading. In doing so we send a signal out to working men and women in this province that there will be hope, that there will be a future, that there will be a day when this province will rise from the depths it has sunk to under this administration, from the depths it has sunk to over the past seven years. It has moved in the wrong direction. But we will bring common sense and sound management back to this province. If they can survive until 1995, they will have a future. They will have a future and a hope and their dreams can be fulfilled.

It may appear bleak and black today, but I believe there will be hope in the future, when we get sound management, common-sense management that will repeal nonsensical legislation like Bill 40, along with a few other things the government is doing, and give the dream back to the people of this province.

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): This has been a long time coming, the first day of third reading debate. There are two days under the time motion on this. I must admit that today being November 4—it is five months to the day since this bill was introduced into the House—brings up the whole point of process, which the Liberal critic has raised time and again, both in the committee and in the House, and I want to speak to process this afternoon.

Much has been made of the consultation process. From the opposition's point of view, of course, it has said there hasn't been any. I want to attest to the fact that I have spent 22 months out of my life on Bill 40, and lately—I would say in the last six months—almost exclusively on Bill 40. I want to start off with when this all began, which was in January 1991.

We're talking almost two years ago when that committee was put together. It has been described as a committee that was unable to work together. We had a labour side and a management side, and in April 1991, we came up with two different reports. The labour report came out first. Of course that is what hit the media, and since that day in April we have had nothing but consultation, discussion and information overload on Bill 40.

Right away, from the time that labour report was put out to the press, there were meetings with the minister, with the deputy minister, both in my office and upstairs. There were consultations in our ridings. Many of our members were having meetings within their own constituencies. All of that occurred from April, and in June the press really made it a big issue. All that time our ministry staff were trying to put together a discussion paper.

In November we came up with the proposed reforms, many of which had been significantly reduced from the wish list of the labour side. We came up with 47 proposals with all kinds of opportunities for discussion and consultation, and we continued to have meetings at our ministry with the minister, the deputy minister, myself, as well as all of our staff.

That's one year ago that this discussion paper came out, almost to the day; in fact, I believe it was November 5 last year. Still the opposition claims we have not consulted and we have not discussed. That is just not factual, because for one year this discussion paper has been out, with all of the suggestions we would like to have seen in the amendments to the Labour Relations Act. As a consequence of what we heard during the consultations that Minister Mackenzie and I went out to in January and February, we changed those from the discussion paper significantly into the draft legislation. It just proved that we listened.

The draft legislation, through our ministry, was devised of course, at the same time still having meetings at our ministry, still meeting with the minister, still meeting with the deputy minister, still meeting in my office, plus constituency meetings. In the meantime Mr Mackenzie and I were travelling at every opportunity and at every request, to appear and speak about this bill and again ask people what their thoughts and concerns were.

First reading was June 4; there's no question of that. I would point out that none of this has been done in isolation. If you think about it, from the day the labour report from the Burkett committee came out, we have had nothing but letters to the editors, editorials, columns, there have been TV shows, local forums—you name it. This has been one of the most publicly debated and discussed pieces of legislation in the past 22 months that anyone could possibly imagine. It even beats Bill 162, which I personally thought was a major complicated piece of legislation that we in opposition did not like.

This has not been a quiet issue. Anyone who has been paying any attention to the media, or to this House, in terms of the delays occurring around here, would see that this bill has certainly been a catalyst.

Through it all, we have made changes. When we finally got into the clause-by-clause portion, which under the time allocation rule we spent eight days on, there were a couple of changes. But admittedly, by that time, after almost two years, we had pretty well put the bill as to what we wanted to see in the amendments to the Labour Relations Act.

Yesterday was opposition day here, as everyone knows, and the third party raised it. It was an opposition that, should they become the government of this province after the next election, they would repeal Bill 40. What really was surprising was that the official opposition in this House supported this opposition day resolution. I would say to the members of the Liberal Party that each of them are going to have to answer to their constituents when they are asked why, number one, they were voting to repeal a bill that would be good for the workers of this province, for minority groups and women, part-time workers especially; and second, why they would agree to even think about a Progressive Conservative government after the next election. It doesn't speak well for their ambitions, that's for sure.

Then we get into the whole concept of repealing this bill. I think anybody who makes that kind of statement is dreaming in Technicolor, because the reality is a complete other issue. I'm sure the public out there don't realize that Bill 40 is amendments to an existing act, and that when

this bill passes—and it will pass—it will be incorporated into the act and those sections will go into the existing Ontario Labour Relations Act.

What will happen then is that for two and a half years, while we remain the government of this province, and for the ensuing four years, this bill will stay in place and be workable. People will—surprise—find out that it is not the ogre we have been hearing from the business community—some of the coalitions, not all of the business community, thank God, but some of the people who have been tossing out rhetoric like it was two-cent candy.

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The reality is that once a bill has been enacted, is working and in place, to change that and to pull out pieces of it two and a half or seven years later and try to repeal this bill will be an impossibility. I speak with experience on that, because if I had had my way, upon forming the government in September 1990 I would have repealed Bill 162. It was a bill that really bothered us, but once it's in place, you just can't do it. That's why I say that anyone who says he's going to repeal this bill is not living in the real world.

Today there was an article by Thomas Walkom about Bill 40, "More Heat Than Light in Labour Law Debate." He talks about much of the rhetoric that has been going on. He's surprised by the fact that the business community went for some of the comments that were made, to take a limited issue of industrial legislation as a matter of life and death, that this bill alone and by itself is going to destroy the investment in Ontario, that this bill alone and by itself is going to close down companies and cause them to move.

Yesterday, the member for Welland-Thorold was mentioning companies that were closing down and were opting to move elsewhere—not because of Bill 40; in fact, Bill 40 isn't even law yet. They were moving for other kinds of reasons: GST, free trade, the dollar, interest rates. Those are the reasons they were moving, long before the New Democrats became the government, which we hear constantly from the other side as the reason for this province suddenly, in two years, falling apart. If it was organized that well prior to our arrival on the scene, then it shouldn't fall apart so quickly.

Impact studies are something that the opposition, particularly the Liberal critic, have mentioned quite often in terms of their not being done. The member for Mississauga West, I believe, commented yesterday that he couldn't believe, was absolutely incredulous, that my minister would state in a letter that he didn't know what the impact of this bill would be on particular industries. Well, that was part of the whole problem with this, and we've stated this time and again, that it is difficult when you can't make a determination—and there is no way to make a determination under this legislation—of how many people will choose to organize after this bill is passed.

Right now in the province of Ontario, 70% of all workers can organize if they want to. Part-time workers can organize if they want to right now. There are all kinds of options for people to organize. Out of that 70% of those workers, only 30% have opted to do so. The expectation is that when Bill 40 is passed, what will happen is that it will

increase the number of workers who are eligible to organize up to about 90% of the workers in the province of Ontario. Based on past history, it would probably indicate that we might be able to get 35% or 40% of our working people organized, and that's with concerted efforts in an expensive system.

I think what was missed in the comments from the member for Mississauga West yesterday was that yes, my minister made that statement because we can't make the determination. We don't know how many people are going to organize, and he was honest and forthright about it. I notice that that characterization was not applied to the minister's statements, and I would like to point out that it is with honesty and forthrightness that Minister Mackenzie has looked at the impact studies.

The other thing in terms of the studies that have been done and that are being used—figures are being tossed out there: 295,000 jobs lost. Well, when you ask 300 or so corporate executives, "Do you want the labour legislation law changed?" it comes as no surprise for them to say no. It comes as no surprise that they would have very negative views about any changes to the status quo. It doesn't matter what survey you put out there; who is being asked the question is really important as to what kind of an answer you're going to get.

It is a shame that the advertising campaigns that have been put out there are so negative. But in actual fact, I thank them for spending their millions of dollars in doing that. They could have used those millions of dollars to train people more effectively. They could have used those millions of dollars, instead of putting up billboards across the province, for health and safety measures in the workplace. But they opted instead to try to defeat this government, and frankly, they have been so strong in their rhetoric and so negative in their rhetoric that they have lost the battle.

If we never found out before whether or not negative language and negative advertising and negative campaigning were going to do any kind of good, all you have to do is look at the referendum results, number one, and look at the Clinton win yesterday and George Bush's loss. So I would say that I thank them, actually, for coming out so strongly on the negative side.

Bill 40 will not dramatically change the workplaces in Ontario, and it certainly won't change anything overnight. When this bill passes in this House—and I will very proudly stand up in the House and nod my head to you, Mr Speaker—I will be leading the cheer and proudly going out and saying to all of the workers in this province that we have passed a flagship of a bill, and I am proud to be associated with it.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Mr Elston: I am going to be very short.

In accordance with my notice of motion printed on the Orders and Notices paper on page 26, I move that Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment, be not now read a third time but be returned to the standing committee on resources development to allow committee members to debate all the

amendments that were deemed to have been read but were never discussed, because the bill is fundamentally defective in principle. October 29, 1992.

The Acting Speaker: Mr Elston has moved a reasoned amendment that Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment—

Interjection: Dispense.

The Acting Speaker: It's dispensed. Does the honourable member have any comments to make?

Mr Elston: Just briefly. This is an item on which I have risen several times. It basically is a question of denial of the ability of the opposition to place reasoned argument in front of the public and the committee.

We were prevented from doing that on previous occasions. It means that when we come to third reading, the bill itself is defective in principle because it did not deal with the issues, some of which were raised by the member for Mississauga North earlier. We think the principle of the bill, the bill itself, can be perfected to some measure—not made perfect, obviously, but to some measure—by returning this bill to the committee to hear and resolve upon the evidence on each of the amendments that were filed.

Some of those amendments, by the way, were filed so late in the day that there was not even any opportunity, of any sort, to actually deal with the issues of the amendments themselves. In fact, as the people will remember, we weren't even allowed to have the amendments themselves read into the record.

I think the committee's work has not been done. The committee has been frustrated by this. I would ask that we send the bill back, as my motion requires, so that the work can be done. I now ask the members to speak in relation to the intended amendment. I hope that the wisdom of letting the committee process in this place work and do its work, deliberate upon the materials which have been dealt with in some speeches in a more orderly fashion—I certainly hope we can get the consent of the entire House to allow this to occur.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Mr Speaker, do you wish me to speak on the amendment or do you wish me to speak to third reading?

Mr Elston: On the amendment.

Mrs Marland: Excuse me. I would take direction from the Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Mississauga South can speak either on the motion that's been moved or on third reading of the bill.

Mrs Marland: I will speak on third reading of Bill 40. As our nation ponders its future and licks its constitutional wounds following the defeat of the Charlottetown accord, one thing is clear: Governments at all levels must turn their attention to our ravaged economy, which is struggling to recover from Canada's worst recession since the 1930s.

It is absolutely incredible, then, that the Bob Rae government of Ontario, rather than making economic recovery its top priority, is about to pass Bill 40 into law. This gift to

the big union bosses will only ensure that the élite in Ontario's labour movement will keep their high-paying positions of power, while the average person, including the rank-and-file union members, will suffer, for Bill 40's amendments to the Labour Relations Act and the Employment Standards Act will kill investment and kill jobs.

Bill 40 is like a death sentence to thousands of unemployed Ontarians and their families. Rather than going back to work, they will lose their self-confidence and their homes. They will stay on welfare and count on food banks. Their children will grow up in poverty. This is not being alarmist; it is being realistic. Bill 40 could cost our province 295,000 jobs and \$8.8 billion in forgone investment, according to a study by Ernst and Young, and remember, more than half a million Ontarians, one in every 10 people, are already out of work.

Bill 40 will seriously upset the balance between the rights of business and the rights of labour. Consider the principal measures in the legislation: Bill 40 will outlaw the use of replacement workers during a strike; it will give non-unionized employees the right to refuse the work of those on strike; it will make it easier for unions, particularly in the retail and service sectors, to organize and gain certification, and it will make it easier for fledgling unions to get their first contract. The law will also override the Trespass to Property Act and permit organizing and picketing on third-party property, such as shopping malls.

Therefore, strikes will paralyse companies. Firms that are small or in fragile economic health will be unable to survive a lengthy strike. Knowing the impact of Bill 40 on businesses, many investors will choose not to do business in Ontario. We are in serious trouble when an influential magazine like *Forbes* publishes an article called *A Lose-Lose Situation*, warning the American business community that Bill 40 will "make the province's businesses less competitive than ever." The *Forbes* article cites several examples of companies that are pulling out of Ontario or cancelling their plans to expand here.

The NDP government has claimed that Quebec, which already has a law banning replacement workers, has not suffered the catastrophic results predicted by Ontario's business community. However, the Bob Rae socialists ignore the fact that many companies reacted to Quebec's law by contracting out work or setting up branch plants across the border in Vermont or Ontario. Quebec lost jobs as a result of its legislation.

Nor has Quebec gained other advantages from its labour relations law. From 1978, when its law was enacted, until 1990, Quebec had more strikes than Ontario in all years except two. In the same period, Quebec lost 802,000 more person-days to strike than Ontario, even though Quebec's workforce is smaller than ours. Quebec has also seen more violence in strike situations than Ontario, contrary to the NDP's argument that outlawing replacement workers will reduce picket line violence.

Looking at other measures of economic and employee wellbeing, Ontario has consistently outperformed Quebec. For example, Ontario workers have enjoyed higher wage increases and levels of employment than Quebec workers.

Why, then, would any responsible government introduce a similar labour relations law in Ontario? While we are asking questions, why would any responsible government pass such a law unless a cost-benefit analysis proved that, at the very least, it would not hurt our economy? The NDP has been unable to produce a single report showing that Bill 40 will provide economic benefit to Ontario.

Indeed, the Bob Rae government kept under wraps a study conducted by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology which examined the effect of a number of workplace practices, including labour relations provisions, on the competitiveness and productivity of Ontario business. Among other things, this study found that unions increased business costs by as much as 20% and that anti-replacement-worker provisions actually increased strike activity.

Ironically, while Premier Rae refuses to meet with police officers across the province who are taking part in a job action, his government is about to pass Bill 40, which will give many more Ontarians the right to strike and increase their power during a strike. If the Premier can't personally live with the consequences of the job action by the police, why is he so intent on increasing the number of job actions across our province? Is such confrontation his vision of ideal labour relations?

Unquestionably, increasing the powers of unions and the extent of unionization has serious consequences. It is therefore crucial that unionization be democratic and truly reflect the views of the majority. There is a simple way to accomplish this: Require that confidential votes be held in all cases of certification, ratification of agreements and decisions to strike.

The Progressive Conservative Labour critic, the member for Waterloo North, Elizabeth Witmer, introduced a private member's bill proposing this confidential voting process in order to respect the rights of workers. This bill was introduced in December 1991. She also introduced an amendment to Bill 40 proposing these confidential votes. However, the Bob Rae socialist government refused to consider our party's suggestion.

In the eight years that I have been a member of provincial Parliament, few issues have aroused as much concern in my community as Bill 40. When I sponsored a luncheon to debate labour law reform, we filled the hall to capacity. Indeed, just last week her worship Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga personally delivered 50,000 coupons, more than 150 pounds of mail, to Premier Rae from the people who are opposed to Bill 40, yet the Premier didn't even come out of his office to speak to the mayor.

Mississauga is not alone in its opposition to Bill 40. A public opinion poll conducted by Environics Research Group showed that the majority of Ontarians think labour legislation will be bad for the people of the province. Labour law reform is not just a labour-versus-business issue; the changes will affect all of us. I have received about 400 letters and calls regarding Bill 40. While I can share only a few of them with the House, these examples represent the views of all but five people who contacted me.

David Gordon, executive director of the Mississauga Board of Trade, wrote: "Should these proposals become law, we would see serious erosion in the present balance between employer, employee and union rights....Legislation of this kind, which is so blatantly union-biased, sends all the wrong messages to those persons who look to Ontario as the place to do business in Canada."

Over 200 Mississauga businesses have contacted me about the bill. Brian Taylor, vice-president of St Lawrence Starch Co in my riding, wrote to Premier Rae: "Your Bill 40...is an insult to the people of Ontario and will destroy the future of this province. The last legislation Ontario needs at this time is reforms to the Labour Relations Act. We must rebuild existing industry, attract new investment; Bill 40 will do the complete opposite, it will turn Ontario into the graveyard of Canada and North America."

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I received a resolution from Mississauga city council which advised the Labour minister of council's grave concerns "that the recommended changes—"

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): On a point of order, the member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, neither the parliamentary assistant nor the minister is in the House. I ask that the debate be held until the minister or parliamentary assistant is here to carry on the work of the House.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Why are you doing this, Murray?

Mr Elston: Because it is the required rules that the parliamentary assistant or the minister be here.

The Deputy Speaker: There's nothing in the procedure, of course, that requires the parliamentary assistant or the minister to be here. It's normally a courtesy, and obviously I recognize that there is a minister in—two ministers—so the debate will continue on.

Mrs Marland: May I request that the clock be reversed to prior to that interruption?

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs Marland: Mr Speaker, I would request that three minutes be replaced to the time left on the clock.

The Deputy Speaker: Please continue the debate. I will not change the clock.

Mrs Marland: I will resume where I was so rudely interrupted.

I received a resolution from Mississauga city council which advised the Labour minister of council's grave concerns that "the recommended changes would negatively affect both management rights in labour relations and the strength and viability of business and industry in the province."

The Peel Board of Education also contacted me to voice its concerns about the bill's impact on its ability to deliver educational services.

With many bargaining units in the school system being governed by the Labour Relations Act, Bill 40 will significantly increase the likelihood that schools will have to

close during labour disputes. Obviously, disruption to our children's education must be avoided.

The Ontario Public School Boards Association produced several amendments concerning replacement workers, which our party presented during committee. For instance, we proposed that the prohibition on the use of replacement workers should not apply when it would cause schools to close. However, the NDP rejected our amendments.

Individual constituents too have been sufficiently worried about the consequences of Bill 40 to contact me. Mary Elizabeth Williams wrote:

"I am moved to write to you about Bill 40....I am very much against this measure, and wonder what we can do to prevent its passage.

"I believe that the majority of people in this province will suffer either directly or indirectly if this becomes law.

"Ontario will lose further ground in the struggle for competitiveness in world markets, and that translates into greater job losses, as the Ernst and Young study predicts.

"By tilting the existing balance towards unions, the government is reducing the basic rights of all Ontarians. The government's mandate is to promote the health of the economy, not to serve the interests of labour leaders. This is political blackmail."

Another constituent, Liisa Myatt, wrote in a letter to Premier Bob Rae:

"This country needs jobs...the people in this country need jobs...our economy demands jobs.

"The advertising campaign against your proposed labour law changes does not exaggerate what will happen in Ontario should these changes come into effect. More power for the unions will create an undesirable climate for business to locate here.

"This is really not a time for partisan politics, Mr Rae...it is time for responsible government. Please renew our faith in the people chosen to lead us and set aside the proposed changes to the labour law."

Sadly, the labour law changes will be passed by the NDP majority government this week. However, I would like to assure my constituents that after the next provincial election, when you elect a Mike Harris Progressive Conservative government, one of our first acts will be to repeal Bill 40. While the Liberals have waffled on this issue, we have always been clear: a Progressive Conservative provincial government will rescind Bill 40 as part of our strategy to restore Ontario's battered economy to the strength this province enjoyed under 42 years of Progressive Conservative leadership.

Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie): Mr Speaker, I certainly appreciate the opportunity this afternoon to speak on this very important piece of legislation, a piece of legislation probably that, more than anything, in my mind indicates the direction that this government wants to go in for the next few years as we work at renewing the economy of the province and try to compete in a global economy that is coming at us in ever more difficult and different ways as we look into the future.

I think it's important for all of us this afternoon to consider for a few minutes the results of the recent referen-

dum on the Constitution of this country, and consider some of the tactics that some of my colleagues and others on both sides of the question involved themselves in as they tried to convince people that their side was right and the other side was wrong. There were many, I think, very dramatic and complicated presentations made as to the results and the effects of either a Yes or a No vote in front of that question.

I must say that being a supporter of the Yes, I was somewhat disturbed by the vehemence and the lengths that some of the Yes people, initially in the debate, went to to talk about how our country would fall apart, how our economy would come apart at the seams and all kinds of dire consequences would come about the day after a No was given on that referendum.

I think it reflects very much some of the discussion that we're hearing from the opposition in front of the present package of legislation that we have here as it regards our Labour Relations Act in this province. All kinds of dire consequences are painted the day after this piece of legislation comes in.

I said on the night of the vote on the referendum, accepting the fact that it was turned down, that, in fact, the next morning the sun would rise and life would go on, and we in the country would find ways to live together and take advantage of all of the opportunities that would come our way and find partnerships that would be helpful.

I suggest to you that this package of legislation certainly reflects this government's attempt to deal with a very difficult economy at a time when the global economy is out there scouring the world for the lowest common denominator. We, in Ontario, have come to accept and live a quality of life and expect a standard of living that comes from the work that we put in and the effort that we make, and we've found ways to work together in partnership to that end.

I suggest, as we look at the difficult economic situation that the world finds itself in today, that if we as a province want to maintain the standard of living and quality of life we've come to enjoy, it behooves us to be doing all that we can to encourage a coming together of people who in the past saw themselves as adversaries, and this legislation does that.

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It sets a scene or a stage for the labour component of the economic activity of this province to feel that what they have to contribute is valuable, to feel comfortable in coming to the table to discuss its future, and in fact all our futures, in a way that I think will challenge them to be ever more courageous and creative in the ways they're willing to participate.

I say that probably as much out of my own experience in the community of Sault Ste Marie: I'm looking at what's happened over the last year with regard to the Algoma Steel situation, where we were presented with a scenario for that particular company that wasn't very palatable for those of us who live and work in Sault Ste Marie and who hope to live and work in that community for a long time to come.

The labour movement, in partnership with this government, brought forth a position in front of that question that

allowed for a different proposition which everybody ultimately was able to buy into. If, in that instance, the steelworkers had not sensed a feeling of support and had not seen the leadership that came forth from the Premier and the powers that be in this government, that wouldn't have happened. On the day the tentative agreement for Algoma Steel was announced in Sault Ste Marie, it's amazing how there was a collective sigh of relief. It was like a black cloud had been moved from on top of the community.

Probably the place where it was most obviously felt by myself and others was in the real estate market, where for about the year that the future of Algoma Steel was in question, houses were not moving in our community. All of a sudden, people began to feel more confident in front of whether they would sell a house or buy a house. The economy was stimulated in a way that was unprecedented and there was a greater sense of stability that came into our community.

I suggest to you that when this government is successful in bringing this legislation forward and having it passed, as it will, and the province then comes to terms with what it provides by way of opportunity for people to come together in partnerships that were unknown before, there will be a collective sigh of relief in this province as well, as we look into the future and how we will organize our economic life. When we, as people who live and work in the province, begin to exude this sense of confidence and this new energy that will be created by these partnerships, which in fact have already begun to happen and will speed up, those outside our jurisdiction will recognize that and be ever more willing and wanting to come and invest in this province.

As I said in starting, Mr Speaker, I suggest to you that the fearmongering that is going on across the way with regard to this piece of legislation is nothing more than that. On the day after this piece of legislation is passed, life will go on in this province, and even more so, life will go on with the dark cloud of uncertainty that is above it right now moved aside. There will be a renewed sense of confidence in the labour force and ultimately in the business community because of the new rules that will be in place as to how we will work together, and all of us will be better off for it.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I'm pleased to have an opportunity to join the third reading debate on this very important legislation. Let me say at the outset that I was not able to join others in the assembly in the public hearings process that was held to allow the public a say during the previous summer, though I can tell you, very few pieces of legislation in my time here have engendered the kind of interest that Bill 40 has engendered. I am not sorry that I was not part of the summer hearings, because quite frankly I've had, as I have indicated before, some very real concerns about the way in which this government has proceeded with this entire matter.

Let me say at the outset what I've said to people in my own community in Renfrew county and elsewhere, that there should be no surprise that a New Democratic government would want to amend the Labour Relations Act and do so in a way that has a clear bias in favour of the New

Democratic Party's traditional and ongoing orientation, which is with the union movement in this province. That shouldn't surprise anyone.

But in terms of process—let me start with process—I must say that I think what has happened here is most regrettable. I can't, in my time, remember ever any government introducing major legislation on or about June 4 and expecting and forcing that legislation through all stages within four or five months. I think that is unreasonable, I think it is unfair, and perhaps most sadly, I think it will rebound to the everlasting sorrow and discredit of the New Democratic Party of Ontario and some of its closest friends. I say that most sincerely.

I say again what I've said before: If any Tory or Liberal government had sought to enact this kind of legislation and sought to do so in the way in which the Rae government has proceeded, there would be hell to pay around here the likes of which members, I don't think, in this Parliament could even begin to imagine.

I've had many heated battles with my friends opposite over the years, and particularly when I was in government, but even in my most determined moments, I could not have imagined proceeding with any significant piece of legislation in the way the Rae government has chosen to proceed with this particular bill. It is a sad and sorry day for this Legislature, and I repeat that it may very well be a very, very sad and sorry precedent for the New Democratic Party and its friends, this business of Bill 40, in the way in which they have proceeded.

The public hearings offered to the community during the heat of the peak of the summer were clearly an insult. I know many people, I represent many people who had little or no opportunity even to learn about the public hearings, and of course the New Democratic Party manipulated and managed this process in a way to deny public access to the hearings process. The idea that you would introduce the bill for first reading on June 4 and add to that bill sweeping changes to the standing orders of this Legislature, orders which had as their only concern greasing the skids so Bob Rae and friends could railroad this bill through within record time, is again an affront.

My friends opposite nod their heads in the negative but they, quite frankly, many of them, do not know of what they speak. I can say with some authority that over the course of the past 17 years there is no precedent for what this government has done with this kind of legislation. I hope, quite frankly, that no successor government ever tries to, quote, "get even" with the same kind of process, because I can assure my friends opposite I would not and will not support that kind of railroading.

I simply begin my remarks this afternoon by observing that it is a very, very sad day for this Legislature, and that the process the Rae government proceeded with, particularly having public hearings in the peak of the summer on almost no notice, was a transparent insult to the people of Ontario who wanted to partake of the public discussion in so far as Bill 40 is concerned.

1700

I know that my friends opposite in the New Democratic Party see this as the dawn of a new era. This, for them, is the

apogee of their legislative achievement. I have no intention of debating this bill with my friends opposite because, quite frankly, it would be like debating the virgin birth with the Curia in Rome. It is just simply not useful, I think, for me as a pragmatic Liberal to engage in that kind of debate.

I respect entirely the ideological fervour of my friends opposite when it comes to this kind of enactment. I don't expect there to be much engagement as between the varying sides in this because, quite frankly, at the core it does involve rather fundamentally different views as to how individuals and groups of individuals see the workplace.

I am not one of those, let me say, who thinks that this bill is all bad. Far from it: I think there are elements of Bill 40 which are entirely supportable. But overall, Bill 40, and the policy which informs it, I believe to be untimely, unbalanced and in significant components unworkable.

Untimely because, as all honourable members know, we are in this province today gripped in the midst of one of the worst economic downturns that we have experienced in over 50 years. This is not, as the Treasurer observed the other day, a recession like the recessions of the early 1980s, the mid-1970s, the late 1950s. There is more and more evidence to suggest that this recession/depression—and that's what it is for many of the people I represent in the rural part of eastern Ontario—this economic downturn is eating at the very vitals of the wealth-producing part of the Ontario economy. We have over the past three years lost apparently something in the order of 18% to 20% of the nearly one million manufacturing jobs in the province of Ontario, and the trend line continues downward.

My friend the member for Bruce has made available to me a copy of the *Globe and Mail* of November 3, 1992, and I noticed that there is an article in the *Globe* by Marian Stinson entitled "Dofasco's Woes Continue." I simply want to make the point that at this juncture in our economic history, we face ongoing pressures on key elements of the manufacturing component of the Ontario economy.

I said the other day—I repeat now—that internal government data and external public information make plain that auto and steel are under very, very great pressure. As the Premier wings his way to Japan, we have new management at General Motors which is clearly mandated to reduce, and reduce substantially, the number of jobs across the North American GM operation.

I noticed in the papers today that auto sector analysts in Philadelphia and Toronto are saying that there is or ought to be real concern about at least one of the facilities in Oshawa, to be specific about the one analyst. I hope and pray those people are wrong.

I hear from very good sources within the Ontario government that a study has been done of the Ontario steel industry which suggests that a further 30% reduction in employment in the Ontario steel industry will be confronting us over the next little while. When one sees the recent reports out of Hamilton and when one hears what one hears about Sault Ste Marie, one has to be concerned.

Let me just read a little bit of the story in yesterday's *Globe and Mail*, "Dofasco's Woes Continue." "Dofasco Inc lost \$14.7 million or 27 cents a share in the latest

quarter, a jump from the \$10.1 million or 24 cents it lost during the same period last year." It goes on to outline the problems that are being experienced by the main Canadian steel producers.

I just wanted to cite the following from that article:

"In a closed meeting with financial analysts, Dofasco said it is considering sites in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and two unspecified Canadian locations for its new mini-mill plant.

"The company is getting quotes on power costs from local utilities in each region, which will be crucial to the decision, because electricity is one of the main costs for an electric furnace operation. Mini-mills melt scrap in electric furnaces, replacing the traditional method of using iron ore and lime in a blast furnace."

That's just one very recent indication of how a key Ontario-based steel producer is telling us that its losses are continuing, and to the extent that it is going to make new investment, it is looking in other jurisdictions like Pennsylvania and Ohio and, to be fair, in undisclosed Ontario sites where it believes the electricity rates will be favourable.

I just want to say in this debate that you can't read that article and you can't connect that reality with what is perceived by the investment and business community as to the import of Bill 40 and feel very comfortable that the very good, well-paying jobs for steelworkers in Ontario are going to be very comforted and satisfied with the kind of public policy the Rae government is proceeding with and pursuing, most especially with its Hydro policy and most especially with this kind of labour relations policy.

I brought with me today—and I'm obviously not going to be able to read—the correspondence from my constituents in Renfrew county. But I have letters from nurses, from farmers, from the chambers of commerce in communities like Pembroke, from a host of other people, not all of whom by any stretch of the imagination are in the business community. There are many working men and women who have asked me to raise their concern about what they think this policy and the attitude of the Rae government is going to do to their jobs and their prospect of keeping their jobs.

When I say the policy is untimely, I mean it is untimely. My constituents, who are out of work in record numbers, want me to stand in my place and convey on their behalf to Mr Mackenzie, Mr Rae and everyone else that the primary worry of the people in Renfrew county is employment, is job creation. The people who work in the sawmills and in the other manufacturing and related concerns are not so ideological and are not so silly as to imagine that there is not some connection between the kind of labour relations policy we have and the future of economic growth and employment growth in eastern Ontario and elsewhere in the province.

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): And Metro.

Mr Conway: My friend the member for Parkdale talks about Metro, where of course we have today an unemployment rate that is unthinkable in terms of what we've known in the modern period.

I ask my friends in the New Democratic Party to pay attention to what the working men and women of this province are telling all of us. I know my friends opposite realize—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. You're not in your chair.

Mr Conway: I cannot imagine a worse time for this or any government to be proceeding with this kind of legislation. It was ill-starred from the very beginning, and I don't entirely blame the government for this, though the government bears the lion's share of the responsibility.

The New Democrats, as I have discovered, approach everything from the time of day to the most important issue on, it seems, a purely collective bargaining process. You ask a New Democrat for the time of day and his first response is to say, "Well, what will you trade for it?"

What happened here, obviously, is that the government decided that in this mandate it wanted to do some things for its friends in organized labour. I want to recite the statistic that my friend the member for Mississauga North has cited many times, that 70% of the Ontario workforce is unorganized. This Bill 40 will do little or nothing for the hundreds of thousands of unorganized men and women in this province, and it has been disingenuous, to say the least, for the Minister of Labour and the Premier and others to go about saying that this bill is going to do some things for domestics and others, when they know and we know that those promises, those commitments, are demonstrably untrue.

I listened this summer to many a baseball game where there were all kinds of ads from the business council on the one side and from organized labour on the other, and there was no small measure of disinformation on both sides. But I'll tell you, Julie Davis and Bob Mackenzie don't need to wring their hands in protest at the business community for disinformation, because I listened to some of the ads that were placed during those ball games this summer by the Ontario Federation of Labour and others. They were interesting, they were entertaining in some respects, but in terms of key issues related to this bill, the labour pitch was absolutely off the mark; it was irrelevant and inaccurate as to what it is this bill does.

1710

Mr Elston: It made George Bush look like an amateur.

Mr Conway: Time does not permit me this afternoon to do that. I want to make the point, though, as the public hearings heard, that this bill and the policy is not just untimely because it is not going to help with any new job creation, as my leader has pointed out, but for people like Dare Foods and others and perhaps Dofasco, it is going to speed the export of jobs from Ontario to other Canadian provinces and to other jurisdictions in North America. That's not what the men and women I represent want this Legislature or any government doing business here to do.

The bill is fundamentally unbalanced because the New Democratic Party in government could not imagine a process that involved the other side, the business community. It's not just the business community, but all of those

people who are unorganized and the other community interests that are going to be vitally affected by this kind of policy. There was no real and meaningful effort to include all of the stakeholders in the process.

My friends opposite say, "Well, look at what happened in British Columbia as compared to what happened in Ontario." I say, "Let's take a look." I don't like everything that's in the BC package, but I will give Mr Harcourt credit for proceeding in a much more evenhanded and open way than did Mr Rae. This government would do well to look at some of the attitudes of the Harcourt government. Bob Rae thinks that Davey Barrett is still the Premier of BC and that we're still back in the early 1970s.

I'll say this for Mike Harcourt: He is not going to repeat the kind of mistakes the well-intentioned, often ideological Davey Barrett made, mistakes that Bob Rae and Bob Mackenzie seem to want to repeat in spades in this province in this mandate. But the process was unfair and it was unbalanced.

The final observation from my point of view is that this bill and the policy which informs it, in key components, is unworkable. In my community of Renfrew county, I have heard from farmers, from small business people, from people who run the public utilities, like the Pembroke PUC, from people who are running hospitals, from people running our family and children's services, and they are telling me that on the basis of what they have read in this bill, on the basis of what they have heard from government officials, on the basis of what they heard at the public hearings, they are very concerned, whether they are at a municipal utility or at family and children's services, that they are not going to be able to meet their obligations under other provincial statutes, and I think that should give all of us pause.

There is absolutely no question, as I said earlier, that certain elements of Bill 40 are good and sensible and they ought to be supported. But this government should be castigated, not just by this Legislature but by the province as a whole, for the ham-fisted, the railroading, the unfair, the unbalanced and the unreasonable way in which it has taken this massive cod liver oil pill and attempted, in four short months, to ram it down the collective throat of a province that is grappling with economic recovery in the midst of a horrific recession where everyone I know says to me and to everyone in elected office, "Stop and think about the first order requirement," which is: Turn your attention to the creation of new wealth; do that which will stimulate economic growth and job creation.

I take my seat on behalf of the people of Renfrew county, who would say, "The tragedy of Bill 40 is that it does nothing to help economic recovery and does a lot to impede economic growth and job creation," surely the first requirement for everyone in this Legislature.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I would like to make a few comments this afternoon on the motion that was made specifically by Mr Elston a few moments ago, and that is a reasoned motion, specifically with reference to the fact that on the final day of the committee hearings there were 26 at the final hour. There were 26 amendments put forward by the government at 5 o'clock in the afternoon,

and remarkably, the next sitting day, Monday, these amendments were deemed to be law, deemed to be passed.

What a strange procedure. I would imagine that most of the members on the government side have not even read those amendments; they have no idea what they say, and here we are today debating Bill 40, not knowing what those amendments are. The committee hasn't dealt with them; I suspect some committee members certainly haven't read them.

So I think Mr Elston's proposal that this not be read a third time—and there's nothing wrong in delaying the debate on this subject until the standing committee on resources development has reviewed these various amendments, because it gets back to the whole issue of consultation.

The government has stood up, the parliamentary assistant stood up later this afternoon and talked about all the wonderful consultation that has taken place by the government from start to finish. I say that my participating in this so-called debate this afternoon—it's not a debate; it's a sham. We're part of the government's timetable. They're going to ram this law down the throats of the people of Ontario, no matter what. In fact, they're going to ram amendments down that haven't even been debated. What a remarkable procedure. What a remarkable payoff to the unions of this province—absolutely unbelievable.

So I would ask that all members of the House consider the proposal by Mr Elston and support that amendment, because we must review a bill on which I cannot believe that every member in this House has not received more telephone calls and more correspondence and more debate among their constituents than on any subject. The thousands of people who haven't been heard, who want to be heard—the committee only heard a small portion of the people who wish to be heard.

We've just gone through a referendum in this country in which it became quite clear that the people didn't want the proposals that were put forward in the Charlottetown accord. The fact of the matter is that all the government leaders said, "Fine, we're going to listen to the people in our respective provinces." Mr Rae, the Premier, has stood and said, "Fine, we're going to listen to the people in this province and we're not going to proceed, because there aren't sufficient people in this province who want this Charlottetown accord."

Similarly, I think if the Premier and the minister were to look at the overwhelming evidence that has come forward, yes, there are unions and there are strong union people who think it's a wonderful thing, and I suppose there are very strong people on this side of the House who think it's a wonderful thing. The fact of the matter is that the system in this province won't work unless you have both the employees and the employers working together. It simply won't happen. People will leave the province. Employers will leave the province; they will go out of business. It won't work. As the member for Renfrew North said, it's not going to solve the problem; it's not workable.

If we look at the referendum, if we're going to be consistent, if we're going to be those new politicians who are going to study the concerns of all the people, at the very least let's read the amendments. How can we possibly

say we're going to deem that they're going to be passed? We're not even going to read them. They're just going to be law.

What a strange procedure this new order on this side of the House, this new order of NDP, has created in this province. They're now passing laws that we're not even able to debate, that we're not even able to see. Time allocation is one thing, but to put forward amendments that are deemed to have been passed by committee is really an astounding procedure. It's not a matter of whether you're in favour or not in favour of those amendments. Let's look at them. Who put these amendments forward? The élite of the NDP put them forward. I would imagine that the bulk of the NDP haven't even seen these amendments.

1720

So we must look at the will of all of the people. We must look at what went on in this election to the south of us, in the United States. We watched President Bush not respond to the main issues of the country to the south of us, which were economics and jobs. President Bush failed to deal with those issues and he has now been asked to leave office; he has not been given an opportunity to serve a second term. This recession we're in now is the worst recession in 50 years. I think we all agree with that.

Interjection.

Mr Tilson: You can say it has been compounded by different factors. The fact of the matter is, it's a terrible, terrible recession. We should be doing everything we can to encourage business to stay alive, to encourage business to operate. We shouldn't be discouraging them.

You must admit, the business community are being discouraged. Why would, for example, an American subsidiary in this province stay here? Why would they stay—just on the worker replacement issue? They can't operate. With the worker replacement issue, they now have really few choices. They don't need to go back to the bargaining table. The union has them by the throat. They can't operate, they can't carry on. So the employer can therefore give in and make very short-term decisions which may affect the overall competitiveness of that company. Yes, it may solve the union-employer disruption, but it may result in a decision they're being forced to make because of this high-handed position of the union. The result is that it may be all right for a number of months, it may be all right for a year, but their competitive position may be affected. We're in a global economy. Whether we like it or not, we have to compete in the global economy. It's a difficult decision that they have. The other alternative, of course, is that they, if they're an American subsidiary or a subsidiary from another country, can leave the country. They can say, "We're not going to stay here."

Yes, my friend the member for Durham West has talked about taxes and other things caused by the federal government and the provincial government. Yes, the federal government has put high taxes and so has this provincial government, this NDP government. The taxes, since you have taken power, have discouraged people from coming to this province. So there's no question that therefore the American subsidiary or the European subsidiary is going

to close its doors. They're going to close their doors and leave. Why would they stay? The other alternative is, particularly if they are a small business, that they could simply close their doors and say: "We can't stand it any longer. We can't operate. We can't make a decent living."

So what does all that mean? It means people are going to lose their jobs at a time when the unemployment in this province is higher than it has been for some time. The Treasurer recently made a statement which showed that the province has lost more than 320,000 jobs as a result of the recession.

The fact is, we've got an unemployment problem in this province. What are we going to do about it? We're going to pass Bill 40. We're going to put people out of work. Don't say, "It's threatening; it's threatening." It's not threatening. The fact of the matter is, if you're a small business and you can't operate, there's no point in going into collective bargaining.

So I support the amendment. In my closing remarks I would like simply to read a portion of a letter. My office, as I'm sure all of you have, has received hundreds and hundreds of letters on this subject of people in our community, not only in our own ridings but outside our ridings, and I'm not even the Labour critic. Gosh knows what she has received, or Mr Offer, the critic for the Liberals, or the minister. Gosh knows what they've received. I can't believe they've been swamped with correspondence, but direct correspondence in my riding has been unbelievable—the phone calls, the expression of concern as to how they're going to stay alive.

So just at random I've picked one letter, which is typical of the letters I've received and expresses the concerns of the people in my riding of Dufferin-Peel.

This is a letter from a firm called Versatile Spray Painting Ltd. This is a firm which has been in business in this area for over 30 years. They say, "What's the rush?"—and what is the rush?—all of which makes Mr Elston's motion most relevant. It's a letter which was written to me, and it comes from Patrick Heslin, who's the vice-president of Versatile Spray Painting Ltd:

"What's the rush? Why won't the government listen to companies like mine before it acts?

"The government's OLRA changes only seem to take union proposals into account, and offer only lipservice to the concerns of business. They would tilt the union-management balance in favour of the unions, something that will increase workplace acrimony and confrontation." And that's something else. It's going to be absolute war. What we're trying to do is make the system work, to make the employer and the worker get along, to make this system work. That's what this bill's going to do. As Mr Heslin says, it's going to create "workplace acrimony and confrontation." It's going to increase.

"Second, I am not convinced that there is a demonstrated need for these changes. At a time when our unemployment rate is so high, when business confidence is so low, and when the challenge of competitiveness is so real, these changes do nothing to put our economy back on the road to economic growth. If the government is serious about getting Ontario out of the recession, then why is it

introducing a scheme that could drive thousands of jobs and billions in investment out of Ontario? Why is there such a pressing need to change some of the most progressive labour regulations on the continent?"

All of which gets to, why won't this government dispute these allegations? There was a study by Ernst and Young, and they challenge that. They say, "Oh, well, that's not any good." But why won't they produce their own? Ernst and Young, of course, made it quite clear that Ontario stands to lose 295,000 jobs and \$8.8 billion in investment in the next five years. If this is wrong, why won't the government show it's wrong? Why won't they even produce some sort of facts to show that this major piece of legislation isn't going to have that effect?

Mr Heslin proceeds:

"I feel that these changes would be very harmful to Ontario, including our employees. These days, people are more concerned about whether or not they have a job—not whether or not it is unionized. I cannot see how this labour law scheme will improve our standard of living, let alone maintain the prosperity we've worked so hard to achieve. Like it or not, we are living in a global economy. Only a renewed emphasis on productivity, competitiveness, and economic growth will give business the confidence to spend."

That's what it's all about. You need business. I know you hate business over there, but you need them. Like it or not, you need them. You need to put something forward that's going to encourage them to invest, to expand, to create more jobs, to improve the economy. You're not doing that with this bill.

"Finally," Mr Heslin states, "business is already suffering from the government's other policies. These days, taxes are too high. The Treasurer has announced that they will be even higher next year to cover the government's record \$9.7 billion deficit. Many Ontario companies are reeling from the recession, and have said they won't invest in the province because of the government's policies. Instead of introducing unnecessary labour laws, the government should be acting to hold the line on taxes, reduce the cost of doing business here, and aggressively encourage new investment."

I'm going to close my comments at this time. I know Mr Stockwell has some comments to make. I will only say that I would encourage members of the House to support the motion of Mr Elston and to finally vote against the bill. Realize your folly and change your mind.

1730

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): I'm happy to be able to participate in the debate today.

The member for Dufferin-Peel made reference to the US election that of course took place last night, and the fact that George Bush didn't do the job in the United States. Well, he'd be interested to know that in Buffalo at least one person, and I want to quote from the Toronto Sun, "Warehouse worker Brian Devine, 23, said he secured his future by voting for Clinton, who will 'pass a bill that if I go on strike, the company can't hire replacement workers.'"

It's interesting that the member for Dufferin-Peel recognizes full well that indeed the neo-Conservative policies that have been in place in the United States for the last few years have done very little for people like that warehouse worker in Buffalo. It's obvious that there is support in the United States for dealing with some of those issues we're dealing with now.

In the past couple of years, I think it's clear that our government has tried to involve the people of Ontario in the life of this province. We have tried in our policies to recognize and reflect the contribution that workers make to our workplaces, to our economy and to our society as a whole. That's been no easy job. It appears to me and many others that we are up against an anti-worker, neo-Conservative agenda that wants to unravel any gains that ordinary people have made in this province. All you have to do is listen to the Conservative Party in this House and outside this House to understand just exactly what that means.

I want to quote from a recent newspaper column that opposed some of our government's labour initiatives. I think it's important. It said, and I quote, "What this government doesn't seem to realize is that labour is a commodity like a case of beer, an automobile or a refrigerator." What a tremendous insult to the working people of this province.

I challenge any of you in this House to go to the factories in this province, to go to the construction sites, to go to the office complexes and deliver that message to working people face to face. I'd certainly be interested in the reaction that you receive.

All we see in the newspapers and on TV these days, and hear from the opposition parties in this House, is a concern for the bottom line of companies but no concern for the wellbeing of our workers. The economy is more than just a bottom line and balance sheets. It's about workers, their families and their dreams. Even in a recession, especially in a recession, we have a responsibility to help workers and their families get back on their feet and become productive citizens once again.

But we've got to have everyone on side seeing things the same way to make that happen. That's difficult because hard times, the times we're experiencing now, eat away at human generosity. This debate over Bill 40 is a perfect illustration of the mean-spirited and transparently partisan attacks on this government.

The Labour Relations Act has not been significantly updated in 15 years, and all you have to do is look around you to see how much our workforce and our workplaces have changed during that time. In the past 25 years, women have joined the workforce by the hundreds of thousands. Part-time work is much more common now than before and thousands of new Canadians are working at their very first jobs right here in Ontario.

The driving force behind Bill 40 is the need, and the obvious need, to have laws that reflect the new realities of our workplaces and our economy. If that's true, why do we have some sectors of the business community that are against any change at all? Why have we faced the most vicious, bitter attacks on this initiative that most of us have ever seen? Why the opposition in this House?

I believe it's an attack on the working people of this province. What we're doing is simply ensuring that there is a continuation of the notion of basic democratic rights: a worker's right to join an organization of his or her choice, and a basic right for that organization to be able to bargain with its employer.

These are not new rights. These are rights that go back decades in the history of this province. These are rights protected by previous Conservative and Liberal governments. Ontario Hydro employees and teachers were granted the right to strike by none other than Bill Davis back in the early 1970s. Public utilities have had that same right for a generation.

When you see ads about Bill 40 in the newspapers and on television that are false and misleading, you realize that fearmongering is considered acceptable by at least some in our society. If you've seen those ads, you know they have headlines that scream, "Closed," "Bankrupt," "Violated," "Conflict." That's their image and vision of Ontario. These ads are deceptive and emit information in a manner that is also deceptive. Everyone is entitled to his opinion, but when these organizations promote misinformation as fact, it's just a negative expression of resistance to any positive change.

There is another assertion in these ads that I think should be tackled head on: the allegation that what we're doing will cost jobs and that there is neutral scientific data which backs that up. You may have seen in those television commercials and in the newspaper ads that 295,000 jobs will be lost as a result of labour law reform. The source for that study, described as an independent study, is Ernst and Young. Ernst and Young carried out an opinion survey of corporate executives that was paid for by a group of employers opposed to any labour law reform; nothing more, nothing less than that.

Those polls and those ads are meant to shape public opinion; they're not meant to measure it at all. Even Ernst and Young itself clearly states that the results of that study could be coloured by the respondents' wish to influence this government.

The allegation that the survey is based on the legislation is also false. The survey was based on the discussion paper of November 1991, a discussion paper that was intended to arouse comment and it did indeed. Executives taking part in the survey were told about six of the government's proposals. Of the six, two don't appear in the legislation at all; another two were modified to respond to concerns raised by those very same business people, and in fact only one of the proposals is accurately described—one out of six.

Despite all of this, we find that these highly paid lobbyists continue to recycle misinformation. I believe that what has damaged investment more than anything else in this province over the last year has been those negative doom and gloom scenarios put forth by our opponents.

This government is encouraging investment. It is those ads and that kind of shortsighted reactionary campaign that's discouraging investment. I believe that the working people of Ontario will see through that very obvious misinformation campaign. I think the positive thrust of this

legislation will touch workers who have not yet had the opportunity to bargain collectively with their employer. At the very least, our proposals will make the workplace a little better and life a little more liveable for some working people.

Bill 40 contains the seed for a whole new era in labour-management workplace relations. I think it's clear that any thinking person would agree that there has to be a stronger atmosphere of mutual respect, respect for one another, and not this attempt to intimidate and frighten. Fearmongering is the most old-fashioned kind of politics and the worst kind of economics. It's not the way to build a modern country or a modern economy. It's not the way to encourage modern labour relations in a modern Ontario.

1740

The opposition parties want to roll the clock back to the anti-worker days of the 1930s. The Conservative Party in this House has clearly stated that one of its first objectives will be to repeal Bill 40. What it's really saying is that the party's first objective is to repeal any worker rights in this province, to continue its attack on workers in this province. That's what it's all about. The opposition party and the third party spend a lot of time in this place and outside this place mouthing their concern for the economy of the province and being quick to blame all the economic woes that they perceive in this province to be the direct result of a labour relations bill. They take no responsibility for what has happened in this province up till now.

The member for Renfrew North raises the issue of power rates and that somehow Bill 40, somehow this government, is responsible for those power rates. They don't raise the issue about the eight years or so that they were in charge of that corporation. They don't raise any of the decisions that were made during their term in office. The third party makes no reference to the fact that for 42 years in this province it had a stranglehold on Ontario Hydro. It takes no responsibility for any of the decisions that were made up till now.

Any reasonably intelligent person would know and understand that what's happening in this province around the issue of hydro rates and business—it's clear that we are paying for mismanagement and errors of the past. The chicken has come home to roost, the bills must be paid, and unfortunately we have to deal with it, but we'll deal with it.

But it's a little ironic, I think, that you never hear from the opposition party or the third party about any of their role in all the scenarios that have come to light in Ontario, and they have had a role, a clear role. They've also had the opportunity, and I think in some cases they didn't take the opportunity, they didn't do the right thing, they didn't make the tough decisions.

This government is not going to go backwards. It is not going to follow the advice of the third party, which wants to roll the clock backwards. We will move forward with Bill 40 and we will continue to move forward our agenda for working people in this province. That's what I believe this bill is all about. It is not about union bosses. It is not about some of the things you hear from the third party. It is

about workers' rights and working people in the province of Ontario.

The third party continues, the member for Dufferin-Peel as well, to raise the issue that this is non-competitive. Since when have democratic rights been non-competitive? The proposals in Bill 40 will help the people of this province, will in the end foster a climate of labour relations that will improve our economy as a whole, and I give my wholehearted support for Bill 40 and would ask other members in other parties in this House to give it some serious thought and back off the political partisanship and realize that this bill is in the best interests of working people in this province.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Five minutes for Bill 40: That's what we've been reduced to in this House. The rule changes that have been adopted—

Ms Murdock: You made the choice.

Mr Stockwell: I didn't make that choice; you made that choice and you pushed it through this House.

Mr Mammoliti: Hurry up and talk. Stop complaining, please.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, can you control this member, please? If he's going to heckle me, I don't mind, but can he just heckle me from his seat?

I have five minutes on a bill this important because they wanted to ram legislation through for rule changes that left the opportunity by the opposition to speak to it completely muffled.

Quickly, it's hard to believe that in two and a half short years this government has lost complete touch with the people of this province. I haven't had one person speak to me about needing to update the labour legislation, about the fact that they need to reorganize. What people out there are talking about is creating jobs, creating wealth, hopefully creating a future for their children. What we are stuck in here debating on a Wednesday afternoon debating is labour legislation that, quite frankly, aside from some union executives and some owners, business community, no one cares about, no one. Rank and file union representatives don't care about this; union executives care about it. The unemployed don't care about it. Nobody cares about this but the executives of unions and this government, and those who are opposed care because it's going to make them uncompetitive.

In two and a half years they've lost touch. In two and a half years hundreds of thousands of people have lost their jobs. In two and a half years we're \$20 billion further in debt. In two and a half years they've had more cabinet ministers in disgraceful exits than you would have in an entire cabinet shuffle. In two and a half years we've had a government that is out of touch with the community and out of touch in the polls. That's why we're faced with this debate today: a payoff for union executives.

I'd like to deal specifically with one small component of this piece of legislation, considering the limitations you have foisted upon opposition that are both unfair and discriminatory. I'll talk about one specific angle: the democratic

process. If you opposite are so truly committed to the democratic process, if you are so truly committed to the rights of workers, if you are so truly committed to fairness and representing minorities, why does this government not allow a secret ballot when organizing?

There is nothing more fundamental in the democratic society we live in than being able to vote in a secret ballot as to whether you agree or disagree. The suggestion is that it's too complicated, it's too difficult, it's open to intimidation. Yet not much more than two weeks ago this entire nation went to the polls and voted secretly on a referendum; 12 to 15 million people cast a ballot. We could do it for a constitution, we could do it across a country, but you can't do it in a simple organizing drive.

It is fundamentally undemocratic and it flies in the face of democracy. Why is that the case? Because intimidation comes from both sides of the street. Yes, management can intimidate; I don't deny it. Yes, unions can intimidate; I don't deny it.

What is a fair and acceptable process that has held true in the history of time? What is the true democratic test? What is the true measure of a democracy? A secret ballot, a chance to go in with no pressure and with no intimidation and cast an unbiased vote as to your thinking. You, the Minister of Labour, the parliamentary assistant and this government will not allow it. I say that they're out of touch and undemocratic. It's unfair and it's out of sight. The point will be made crystal clear when this particular legislation passes and this recession turns into a depression.

1750

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): It's a pleasure to be up speaking on Bill 40. We've listened to a lot of rhetoric coming from across the floor. We've heard a lot of things being said across the floor and it still continues, some coming from an ideological base, some coming from an intelligent base. Most of the ideological stuff I can deal with; the other things that are being said are unintelligible.

This Labour Relations Act hasn't been changed in over 15 years. The minister went forth and went out to the communities first with a document that said these were proposed changes to the act, and he went around the province. It's unprecedented for a minister to go out around the province, around the different communities to listen to the public about legislation that is coming in, how it's going to affect you and how it's going to affect your everyday life. That, in itself, speaks more for the consultative process than anything else any other government has done.

If I remember correctly from previous years, I remember when the Liberals went around with Bill 162 and listened and listened but didn't change it when it finally did come in. If there were amendments, they were minuscule amendments. They didn't actually listen to the people.

We've made so many changes on this piece of legislation that it goes beyond me. In fact, I'm one of those people who thinks we've backed off a little too much.

As far as the time to build bridges is concerned, everyone knows that right now we're in an economic crisis that needs the work of every Canadian, every Ontarian, whether we're unionized, non-unionized, management,

non-management. This sort of building together must continue, and it's happened, if we listen to what General Motors said about Oshawa. They couldn't have made the commitment to Oshawa and the jobs in Oshawa without the help of the working people, without the help of the union.

In my own community, MacMillan-Bathurst has introduced a program where the union was involved along with every step: the planning process, the process of implementing new machinery, the training process. The management was not afraid to go and consult with its labour colleagues, because it knows that for the business to be viable, everyone has to be working together.

That's what this Bill 40 is about. It's about building bridges; not only building bridges but building together because it's part of our economic renewal. We can no longer be fighting one another if we're going to survive in what has been termed the "global economy." Also, as we see the forces of North American free trade on the horizon, it's time we did work together.

What has this government also done? If you look at the whole range of what has happened in labour and in business, this government has put more money into training, because we know a trained workforce is what is going to help us in the future.

We've also put money into the Ontario Development Corp so that industries can expand not only their market share but they can also expand their industries.

This goes along with everything else we're doing. We're helping the business community to expand its markets, we're helping the business community to upgrade its machinery and we're supplying training so that the workforce will be what we consider one of the best in the world. We're doing that, and now we're promoting a partnership, and that partnership has to begin in the workplace.

This legislation alone is not going to be the panacea. It's not going to be everything to everyone, but it is a step in the right direction. That step has to be treating working people as people and allowing them to have a right not only to say what goes on in their company but also to be in on the decision-making powers.

As far as votes on contracts are concerned, whenever there's a collective agreement negotiated, it's always a tentative agreement and it gets taken back to the membership, much as we saw on the referendum vote last week, where there was a tentative deal struck and it was sent back to the people to ratify. That's what happens in a contract. If the members turn down the tentative deal, then there is possible strike action, but not with the first contract.

What happens in the first-contract deal most of the time is that the employees are taken to the limit as far as the negotiation process is concerned, and sometimes they're forced to go out the door and have to be on strike for a first contract. This strike is usually the pinnacle of whether or not this union is going to survive and whether some of the members are going to survive and continue to be working in their workplace.

Once a contract has been signed, it's the enforcement of the contract that becomes the important part, where both sides have agreed to a contract and both sides can live with that contract. It's unfortunate that people believe that because

of union arm-twisting, people will vote one way and not another. That's an image I have from a Sylvester Stallone movie called F.I.S.T. I think that was the name of the movie where the union bosses were going around beating heads, and that's changed dramatically. In fact, now the most aggressive companies, the most successful companies, are those that have learned to work with their employees and work with their unions.

Let me tell you about Genesta and Abco in Guelph, where again they wished to expand their market and wished to make production improvements so that production will increase. The first people the management went to were the union members and the union executive. They talked about it and they decided on a course of action to take so they could improve their productivity, and the union was in agreement with this.

Also, when talking with the president of the union, he was mentioning negotiations that were coming up. They realize the economic downturn, they realize the recession and they know they can't go out asking for the world. They're willing to work with business, work with their managers and work with their owners to make sure there are no work stoppages, and also to realize that they are a part of what is happening in the workplace.

Many times in the past, from different factories and different companies that I've visited, it was easy to see those that had the least amount of strife in the workplace. Grievances were fewer in the workplaces where management and union had dialogue. Arbitration cases were lower, strike action was lower.

This all comes down to being able to talk with your employees, being able to make that leap of faith, so-called, so that we're not always going to be at each other's throats. The time for conflict in the workplace has ended. The time for building bridges, the time for reconciliation, the time for building a strong economy is here. It's now. If we don't seize the opportunity, we'll be lost. We'll be left behind by more progressive countries such as Germany, Japan and European countries, which are recognizing the importance and the knowledge of their working people. These are the countries we compete with.

As my colleague said before, a person in Buffalo said he voted for Clinton because Mr Clinton is going to guarantee there will be a law that if he ever goes on strike, his job will not be replaced.

It's happening all over. It's going through North America. People are demanding a more democratic society. That democratic society does not end as soon as you enter the workplace. That democratic society has to be included in

the workplace, where people have a right to say what is going on with their lives within the workplace. Just because a person punches a clock doesn't mean he leaves his life as soon as he enters the workplace or leaves the workplace.

What goes on inside a workplace often contributes to what goes on in the home. If you have a day at work where you're always being hassled or if there's a problem going on, union work, or something is getting you down, or management is coming down on you, then it's only natural that when you leave the workplace and go home, those troubles, those pressures, are still with you. Sometimes they can be manifested in ways that I'd rather not speak about right now.

We look at the history of what has happened as far as labour law is concerned and we listen to the rhetoric. We can go back in history to the child labour laws. Let's go back to the child labour laws and listen to the rhetoric, because it hasn't changed. The business community, the third party, the opposition, are all saying the same thing: that it's going to drive business out of this community, it's going to drive it to the States, it's going to drive it to the other provinces. That was back in the 1800s.

Let's look again at what's been happening. How many auto workers were on strike, how many beatings were on the picket line when they were fighting for the eight-hour day? That's something I wish I had again, Mr Speaker, just in passing.

I must say, the struggle working people have gone through over the years, not only to gain some recognition but to gain some respect and to gain that little bit of democracy in the workplace, that's the key for me right there, the right to be able to participate freely in a democratic system within the workplace. There's nothing that irks me more than the autocratic way workplaces have been operating, where the machines and the employees are one and the same. It's time that changed.

It's time that Bill 40 was endorsed and embraced by all parties, endorsed and embraced because it is the right way to go, because it brings dignity and democracy to the workplace. It also is something this government has said it is going to do; that is, protect working people. I believe that as a government we've been doing that.

The Deputy Speaker: It being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 1800.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
72	2913	1	33	across this country, from Vancouver to St John's, the

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Larry	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prescott et Russell			
Prince Edward-Lennox-South	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hastings/ Prince-Edward-			
Lennox-Hastings-Sud			
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est			
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
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Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 5 November 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 5 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 5 November 1992

The House met at 1002.

Prayers.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

NORTHERN ONTARIO SENATE REPRESENTATION ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO AU SÉNAT

Mr Ramsay moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 84, An Act to provide for the Representation of Northern Ontario in the Senate of Canada / Loi prévoyant la représentation du Nord de l'Ontario au Sénat du Canada

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I'm very pleased to be able to rise today, to finally have my turn come up after seven years in the Ontario Legislature, to have the opportunity on our Thursday mornings to present a private piece of legislation, as we do.

As you know, my bill is about allowing northern Ontarians to choose their own Senate representation. Of course, this was given great debate as Canadians across the country, coast to coast, were discussing how we were to change our Constitution. As people will remember now—it seems fleeting after the referendum of last week—we in the country and the politicians felt that we needed a new Senate and that we needed to reform how the Senate was chosen. This movement really started in Alberta.

People have asked me today, now that the referendum has said No to the full constitutional package, why would I continue to pursue the idea that northern Ontarians be allowed to select their own senators in a new Senate? We're certainly going to talk more about this later on, but I just want to state right now that it is very important that northern Ontarians have the ability to choose their senators. I want to put that on the record and allow other northerners to put that on the record, so that when we do revisit the issue of Senate reform, which I'm sure we are going to do in this country in the next few years, it will be on the record that the people of northern Ontario have spoken and would like to be allowed to choose their own Senate representatives.

I would like to dedicate this bill this morning to a senator from northern Ontario who passed away on Tuesday. He was Senator Rhéal Bélisle, who had served in the Senate of Canada. He died at the age of 73 after a lengthy illness. That leaves from northern Ontario, if you count Mr Kelleher, one senator out of 24 today. I think it reinforces the point of how important it is that we get on with the work of reforming the Senate of Canada and that the regions of Ontario have the ability to choose their own senators.

I think it is important that when the discussions came that we would have an elected Senate from the different provinces across the country, it became very apparent that if we in the north were to participate in an election at

large—that is, to elect six senators, as was proposed, throughout all of Ontario—it would become very difficult for northern Ontario to elect a representative of its own.

I believe it would have been difficult for many reasons. As you know, in northern Ontario we are 10% of the population, yet we represent 90% of the land base of this great province. It's very difficult for us to travel in the north. It's very difficult for us to garner the resources to mount a province-wide campaign. I am sure, and I am sure all northerners would agree, that it would have been very difficult for the north to elect one of its own in a province-wide election. Therefore, I felt it was important to make the point now, so that when we do enter discussions later on in regard to Senate reform, northerners would have put on the record that whatever reform package eventually comes forward, we would like to have the opportunity to elect our own.

For that reason I kept the premise of this bill very simple, because a lot of people have many ideas about Senate reform and I certainly don't want to conflict with those. I am here today to make one point and one point only, that whatever number of senators may be decided upon in future senatorial reform, the north have that opportunity to elect its own.

I have to tell you, as people in the north certainly realize, that this is not an idea that has originated with me. This idea came from the city of Timmins and the Save Our North committee. Steve Perry, with whom I met last night, actually, on other matters in regard to the mining industry, heads a very active group of northerners throughout all northern Ontario in regard to economic development and political representation in the north. It was the Save Our North campaign, once hearing, as I did, the suggestions in the Charlottetown accord, that felt that northern Ontarians should be able to elect their own senators. In their particular proposal they had decided that they would like to have three out of the six.

In my discussions with people across the north and across the rest of northern Ontario, it seemed to me that the perception outside of northern Ontario was that maybe it was just a tad too greedy on behalf of us to say that we would like 50% of the representation, when quite frankly, as I've said, we represent only 10% of the people here in Ontario. I went back to Save Our North and said, "I would really like to support the principle of your bill, but I would like to change it to two out of the six senators proposed." They certainly agreed it would be a good idea to bring that forward if it was more acceptable. I believe it is more acceptable, because this now leaves room for other regions of Ontario to share in the six or how many senators are eventually decided upon.

And I think that's right, because what I'm talking about today is not just for northern Ontario; I'm trying to make the point that the regions of Ontario should be able to elect their own representatives in the Senate of Canada. That's

the basis of what the triple E principles are all about. It's about regional representation. It's not about representation by population, which we try to assume here in this House and our House in Ottawa. We try to do that, but the Senate is very different. The Senate is that chamber of sober second thought, as they say, and the idea of a new reformed Senate is to give the Senate some authority, some teeth, if you will, especially in regard to resource matters.

That's why I'm here today and why groups from northern Ontario are supporting my private member's resolution, because we are, as you know, primarily a resource-dependent region of Ontario. We from the north must have a say on resource taxation, as has been proposed for a new, more effective Senate. That's why it's very important that we're going to be able to choose our own.

In notifying the many municipalities across northern Ontario, I have been able to get tremendous support from municipalities right across northeastern and northwestern Ontario. I'm very pleased for that support, and, as I have requested, many of those towns have contacted their local MPPs to ask them to support this bill. I'd like to read an excerpt from one of those letters, from the township of Emo, a tremendous farm area that is very much like my own in Timiskaming, except this is in the great riding of Rainy River. They say in their second paragraph:

"We realize that with the No vote, Senate reform is probably on the back burner until a new constitutional endeavour. We think it is very important for various regions in Ontario to go on the record concerning any possible future makeup in the Senate. In this manner, any future provincial negotiating team will know in advance that regional and gender representation will be a requirement."

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I think that's very important, because what happened, I think, with the Charlottetown accord is that our politicians nationally got out there maybe a little too far in front of the people of this country in making their deliberations. I know it's very difficult when you get into that negotiating situation, that the pressures are on you and you start to make your deals and make those compromises. I think, by stating on the record today what especially the people from northern Ontario would like to see from a Senate, that this would give our future negotiators much more certainty in entering those new negotiations.

Again, that is why I will continue today with this and hope to garner the support of many members in the House, because I think it's an important issue. I'd like to thank those municipalities that have responded and are responding at this moment to this bill.

This is, I guess, just one of many battles that we who are elected from northern Ontario, from all political parties, always have to face. There are 16 of us in this House representing, as I've said, 90% of the land base of Ontario, albeit 10% of the people, and it's very difficult for us, from all parties, to make the point down here with a bureaucracy that is primarily centred in Toronto, of the importance of northern Ontario and what our needs and desires are. This is just one more tool, and I would like to be able to say, when I have completed my career, that I have been able to

work towards putting institutions in place, making some fundamental changes, to make it easier for the people who came after me to make that representation to Toronto for northern Ontario.

One of those, I believe, that our government started and that the new government is continuing, is the transfer of public service jobs into northern Ontario. I certainly salute the new government for continuing that endeavour our government had started. This was an idea that René Fontaine and many of us in the Liberal government had felt was good, and we've been able to convince the new government to continue that. That is going to make our jobs easier in the future too, because we will now be coming in contact with civil servants who have lived in the north, who understand the problems of northern Ontario and have that experience.

Mr Speaker, I'm going to surrender the floor right now and will be back to sum up at the end of the debate.

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): While I respect and sympathize with the member's intentions on behalf of his constituents in northern Ontario, and while I support the principle of wanting regional representation of the north in a new Senate, I must state that I have some serious difficulties with Bill 84.

It was my intention last night, as I reflected on speaking to this bill, to speak specifically to the provisions of Bill 84, but I decided differently. The problem is this: The member opposite introduced Bill 84 in the context of a specific constitutional proposal, the Charlottetown accord, which for all intents and purposes is no longer a living document. Therefore, the fundamental flaw in the member's bill is that it's no longer relevant.

In my view, it would be unwise for this House to pass a bill respecting provisions for Senate representation without knowing what kind of Senate model we are talking about. The set of constitutional proposals to which it is tied and upon which it relies for its rationale is no longer the basis for discussion.

For this reason I must speak against Bill 84 as it is presented at this time. While I can understand the member's intent in seeking a form of regional balance of Senate seats within Ontario, I want to be the first to acknowledge that the train has left the station. Constitutional reform is no longer on the agenda at the moment, and I believe there is broad consensus that this matter should not be reopened for at least the foreseeable future.

This House has other business to conduct at this time, and I recommend that we get on with it and defer this discussion until there is consensus to reopen this issue.

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): I'm pleased to participate in the debate today, particularly because of the strong efforts of the member for Timiskaming on behalf of northerners.

Having listened to the member opposite, just briefly, I guess I understand: The train has left the station but the train will come back to the station some day. It is important for us to understand that under the referendum proposal, the Senate of Canada was to have had special powers with regard to resource issues. I and northern

members are particularly concerned about resource issues because our economy is strongly based on resource issues.

It seemed to me that when Save Our North came up with the idea of having three senators from Ontario to deal with those specific resource issues on behalf of the communities in Ontario that are most affected by resource issues, the member's proposal made ultimate sense, and whether it's two, three, four or a percentage of a third of whatever Senate may appear, it seems to me that in the Parliament of Canada there needs to be strong representation from the northern part of our province.

Northerners do exist on 90% of this land base. We are, I think, only 9% of the population now. Most of that population is concentrated in the five major centres of northern Ontario. It leaves about 2% of the people of northern Ontario out across the rural north. These people need representation.

We have seen many federal initiatives that have not been, in our view, in the interests of northern Ontario. We have seen the cancellation of flow-through shares, for example, in the mining sector. We have not seen the replacement of that initiative with something that would help a very ailing industry. We have seen, over time, a problem with the forestry industry, where I'm sure that if the federal government was getting more representation in the Senate from resource-based economies like Ontario's north, we would have more voice in pushing that agenda along.

I believe the member has provided a useful function. I believe that it's important to Ontarians, and especially northern Ontarians, to be able to get their views across to the federal politicians. I say that also with regard to the provincial politicians. As the member for Timiskaming pointed out, there are but 16 of us, from all parties, in this House of 130 members. I think we do, from all parties, a good job of raising the issues. We win some and happen to lose our share also, but I think that, at least in terms of our voices, we are relatively well heard, but I'm not so sure sometimes how much we really affect public policy, just because of the sheer numbers.

Members will recognize, especially northern members, that there have been movements afoot over the years to create a province of northern Ontario. While I'm not an advocate of that, I can understand, when I'm out talking to my constituents, that there are some real issues that real people see quite differently from the view from Elliot Lake or Espanola or Mindemoya than they see from Toronto or Sarnia or Windsor. Their view of the world is different. Our economy is basically different, and while we are attempting to diversify that economy—I think the former government took some great steps in that direction—I know that northern Ontario people feel they are not getting their message through as loudly and as clearly as they should be.

This small step of suggesting that in what was to be a Senate with a resource-based prerogative, northern Ontario, the resource-based communities, should have a say, I think is what the member for Timiskaming was trying to talk about.

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In one of my communities, Elliot Lake, for example, we have had terrible difficulties over the last couple of years. Our mines have shut down. This government has laid off 1,600 workers directly. The federal government, to its credit, has supplied a vast amount of training dollars, as it should under the Constitution and under constitutional arrangements. But just this week, we have learned that the federal government has withdrawn funding for 30 workers who were to be retrained, who were back at school, who were hoping to get on with their lives. The federal government, through Employment and Immigration policy, because it has not had enough money, has cancelled a program.

I do not know what those workers are to do. I know that in the House of Commons our members will be speaking to the government about this, but I think in particular that having a stronger voice in the Senate, while it may not alleviate the problem, will certainly add weight to what northern MPs are saying to Brian Mulroney these days.

I know the member has support across the north for his initiative. I know in my communities I have been talking to the mayor of Espanola, to people from Spanish—that's officially the township of Shedden—who are telling me that this is a good idea and that we should be doing this. While I guess the question is at the moment moot, I think the philosophy that underlies what the member has done here is basically sound and should be supported by all members. We should not use the excuse, "Well, the train has left the station." Let's vote on the issue. What we're really voting for is for people in the resource area of this province to have a voice in the resource decisions that affect this province.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity today to participate in this debate and I look forward to interventions by other members.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): I'd like to start off by saying that in regard to the proposal here before us in Bill 84 put forward by Mr Ramsay from Timiskaming, I think there isn't really any problem in supporting the idea in principle of having representation from northern Ontario in a Senate.

But I'd just like to say a couple of things. First of all, there is a difficulty; that is, on October 26, the people of northern Ontario, like most other people across this nation, voted No to the constitutional accord that was agreed to in Charlottetown, which leaves us with a little bit of a dilemma. I just want to go through this somewhat.

If we take a look at the results that came in on the referendum during the night of October 26 and we look at northern Ontario, there was a higher than normal percentage of people voting No in northern Ontario than in most other regions of the province of Ontario itself. I think we should listen a little bit to what the people in the north were telling us.

One of the things that I think all of us, if we would admit it, heard very strongly when we went around talking to our constituents in the north was that most people in the north support the abolition of the Senate. I think it's fairly safe to say a lot of people in the north, probably like other

regions in the country, feel that the Senate in itself, the way it is now, serves no useful purpose and were somewhat hesitant to make the leap of faith of going to an elected Senate that effectively would become an effective Senate when the 1995 or 1996 election would happen when we would elect them.

I think we need to listen to what people are saying. One of the difficulties I have is that even though I'll support this motion, because I agree with the concept, I think we need to listen to what people in the north were saying and I just want to bring that point out.

I'd like to touch on one of the points Mr Ramsay raised at the very beginning, that this is an initiative, yes, that came from the people of Save Our North, and I'd like to use the name of Mr Steve Perry, who is really probably the leader on this issue, who contacted probably most northern members. I know he contacted me and obviously Mr Ramsay in order to talk about this issue. I think it's important that the House understand and that the people out there understand why Save Our North and people within the mining industry and forestry industry think it's important to have this kind of concept.

If we take a look at the powers the new Senate was going to be given, if it would have passed on October 26, the Senate would have really had a lot of power when it came to resource decisions. Since northern Ontario is a resource-based economy, where mining and forestry is the mainstay of its economy, it was felt that it was very important that we have good representation from Ontario out of the six senators who would have been underneath that accord, to be able to speak on resource-based issues.

In effect those six senators from Ontario, like six senators from any other province, would have had an effective voice when it came to the federal government deciding policy on questions of resource. As such, the idea of Save Our North was that, senators, obviously out of the six who were elected, we should make sure that we had senators from northern Ontario who understood the resource sector, not just understanding it from a reading perspective and taking a look at the *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Sun*—God forbid, not the *Toronto Sun*—and the *Toronto Star*, but people who actually lived in northern Ontario who understood what the mining industry and the forestry industry really are all about, who understand not only the bottom line but the human equations of those industries and how important they are to our community in northern Ontario.

Because of that, I think we don't have any problem supporting that particular motion, but there are couple of other things that have to be said.

As was mentioned by colleague Mr Marchese, one of the difficulties of this debate—I understand why Mr Ramsay is putting it forward. I imagine that he wanted this to come out before the referendum. That was probably what the intention was and that's why this particular bill came forward at this time. It was just a question of timing within the House.

But again, I just have to point out that at this point God knows what's going to happen. What's going to happen in

the next round of negotiations? Will there be negotiations when it comes to a renewal of Canada? I certainly hope so.

On the question of the Senate, what's going to happen? Are we going to end up in a situation where the majority of Canadians are going to take the view that we should abolish the Senate? Who knows? I just want to point out that it's a little bit premature to be talking about representation, but I do think it's important that if ever we get to the area of having elected senators that we have fair representation from northern Ontario.

Some of my colleagues within the New Democratic caucus—it's interesting—had a bit of a discussion when we talked about this, exactly about where the boundaries of northern Ontario should be, because there are also other regions within the province that feel somewhat alienated when it comes to the question of how they're viewed by Queen's Park.

It's not the fault of this government or the past government or the government before that; it's just the reality of the geography of Ontario. People who live in rural Ontario, either in southwestern, southeastern or central Ontario, have probably some of the same concerns as we do in northern Ontario when it comes to access to important services such as health care, when it comes to access to government generally. In some ways we probably do better in northern Ontario, because of something that was introduced under the Conservative government and followed through by the Liberals and ours, which is the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. That particular ministry gives a voice to northern Ontario that probably most other regions within the province don't have.

One of the things that would be interesting—and I will stick my neck out a little bit—is maybe what should be happening is having some sort of a similar model for some of those other regions within the province to have a voice and be able to bring forward their issues, because the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines really is sort of like the catalyst. It's like the one-window approach to government services in northern Ontario where a municipality or individual says: "I'm having difficulty with my business. I want to be able to approach the government for assistance." If it's a municipality having to do with fixing roads or it's a question of health care or it's a question of social services, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines sort of acts as that one-window approach.

I think we should be fairly proud and fairly happy that we have such a service in northern Ontario, a ministry that is viewed probably as one of the better ministries in the north, mainly because of the functions it runs, and also, I think, because of the size of the ministry. It's not so big that it's become bureaucratic. It's very much a hands-on, grass-roots type of ministry.

The other thing I want to get back to very quickly is the question of the importance of the resource sector. I think all of us here from the north, on all sides of the House, and I would invite Mr Eves who is here from the Conservative caucus to maybe concur with me on this, agree that there is a great deal of underestimation on the part of some people in this province when it comes to the importance of resources in our province. It's not because

of anything malicious; it's just because most people really haven't had the chance to sit down and think about it.

If you're living in London, Sarnia, Windsor, Ottawa or wherever it might be, not many people think of the important role the forestry and mining industries play in our daily lives and their importance to the economy of this province. As such, what ends up happening at times is that those particular industries, especially because of the hard economic times we're going through right now, when they try to bring forward some of their concerns about where they're at as industries, they sometimes feel a little alienated and sort of left aside. I think it's something we as members really have to start talking about within our constituencies, not only in northern Ontario but also outside of the north: the importance those industries have.

1030

The communities I represent—Timmins, Iroquois Falls and Matheson—are all touched very, very closely to what these industries mean. Mining is a daily part of our lives in northern Ontario. I've worked in the mines; most of my friends either work in the mining industry or the forestry industry. They really are highly technologically advanced industries. Mining is probably one of the the most technologically advanced industries within the province. If you take a look at the developments that have happened around instrumentation, around some of the technologies we use in mining, they are very much advanced of other industries. Yet some people look at mining as a labour-intensive industry that has no technology within it. I say that just in passing, because we need to understand that mining requires high technical skill. One of the difficulties we have, obviously, is that we have to be able to communicate to people the importance of the industry, but also what the industry actually is.

The industry itself has been going through—I would say it started probably about 1982-83, from what I recall, working within the industry—a really tough time, especially the mining industry.

First of all, we've seen the depleting of prices of metals on the foreign markets because of what happened with the bringing on line of new mining properties in different places across the world. We've seen the prices of copper, gold, zinc and other metals drop in price, which means that obviously the costs of operating these mines have become a lot more marginal when it comes to making a profit.

The other thing that's obviously happened as well is that there have been many changes in what's happened within the industry itself over the years. A lot of the reserves we've had in the past, because there hasn't been the money to spend on the exploration end of it, are fast depleting. We need to send a message out there to build the confidence within the industry in order to make sure we invest in bringing on line new developments in exploration, so we can replace some of those reserves that have been depleting in the mining industry up north.

To that end, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, in partnership with groups such as Save Our North and others that speak to this proposal, has been working to address some of the concerns to try to change the really systemic problems we have within the industry itself.

The Save Our North committee brought forward five particular points to the government that need to be addressed to try to fix some of the systemic problems we have in the mining industry. One of them was the question of permitting. In the past, when you were looking at getting permitting on mine lands, you had to approach three various ministries in order to get the permit to do that work. They asked us to bring forward a one-window approach, and last spring we signed agreements with the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Labour in order to bring that to a one-window approach through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

One of the other things they had talked about was the question of incentives. We just recently, in September, released a document called New Directions in Minerals Incentives for Ontario, to be able to bring forward a good discussion within the industry about how best to tailor-make incentives for the mining industry so that they're the most effective possible.

On that note, we've had really good response from the mining industry; it's been a very constructive dialogue. Some really exciting times, I think, are coming in the future in regard to that whole initiative. I just want to say that, because this government really believes it's important that we support the mining industry and forestry industry for people in northern Ontario.

I speak of this for the simple reason that I think people need to recognize where this particular motion comes from. It comes from the sense of alienation of the people of northern Ontario because of the way they've been viewed from Queen's Park. Some of that is real and some of it isn't, but there's obviously a message coming through this motion, and I think most people in the north would agree.

So I ask members in the House to think on that a little bit, even though they may have some difficulty with regard to the timeliness of this motion; that's understandable. Obviously the decision of October 26 in regard to the referendum debate really decided the question of what happens with this bill, and it's not the vote in this House that will really make the difference. But I ask people to at least support the bill on its principle, because the principle is something that I think is acceptable to most people, and it's very important, especially if the Senate ends up being the body which will have the power to make decisions around resource-based industries for the province. With that aim, I will support this motion.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): It's my pleasure to take part in this debate in the chamber this morning. I would first like to say that I have some difficulty with respect to the proposed bill from two different aspects.

The first aspect I have difficulty with is that it does not include the federal riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka. That perhaps is a problem that this party here has had, the provincial Liberal Party, consistently failing to recognize Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario, and it's done it again here in this proposed private member's bill.

The members may be interested to know that Parry Sound-Muskoka is indeed considered, by the federal government, to

be part of northern Ontario. In fact, it has rather good representation on the Fednor board and takes part in those programs; indeed, it does now with the provincial government as well, for the most part, with the exception of a couple of ministries, which I am still pursuing.

Having said that, the other aspect of this proposed bill I have difficulty with, despite the fact that I consider myself to be a northerner and from northern Ontario, is the idea of a quota system. I am not in favour of quota systems when you elect people, for anybody. I'm not in favour of quota systems for women, I'm not in favour of quota systems for racial minorities and I'm not in favour of quota systems for geographical regions. I think I've been fairly consistent in that.

When you are electing people, you are electing them, hopefully, on the basis of merit and representation, and the person the electorate has the most trust or confidence in is indeed the individual who should be elected.

Having said that, though, I have no problem with, for example, setting out constituencies for election to a Senate. Perhaps that is the best way to address the problems I just heard my friend talking about, to ensure that northern Ontario, which does have special interests and does have special concerns and often is overlooked—I don't care what government has been in power, be it Conservative, Liberal or New Democratic, as we've seen in the last 26 months. The ministers from the north certainly have a problem getting their message through to the powers that be, be it from treasury or wherever, and getting their fair share. A lot is extracted from the north in terms of taxation etc, and not even as much as is taken out is given back in terms of expenditures in northern Ontario.

Perhaps the best way to address this problem, not only for northern Ontario but, I say to my friends from southwestern rural Ontario and I say to my friends from eastern Ontario, perhaps the best way to address an elected Senate would be to indeed have election of senators on the basis of geographical regions or constituencies. That would ensure that every part of the province gets representation.

There are more important things, and I know I'm going to hear the people from Metro Toronto screaming already, "We have some three million people out of 10 million people in the province, and therefore we should have half the Senate seats." Well, first of all, there's no such thing as a perfect representation by population, even within this chamber. I represent a riding that's the fifth largest in the province geographically, for example, but I'm sure is way below the provincial average in terms of population; indeed, a lot of my fellow northern members experience the same difficulties.

You have to be able to represent your constituents, and your constituents aren't just individual people. Quite often they represent geographic areas of the province, obviously, but they also represent, for example, a rural background, or an agricultural background in the case of a lot of southwestern and northern Ontario, eastern Ontario as well, for that matter.

That's perhaps the best way to address the problem we have before us. I do support the principle of what the

member for Timiskaming is saying, because I understand his frustration, as indeed a lot of us from northern Ontario do, and I think we also have to appreciate the problems that are particular to other regions of the province as well, such as eastern Ontario and southwestern Ontario.

1040

I would also like to say that even under the current system, where the province of Ontario currently has some 24 senators, who are appointed, I think northern Ontario quite often has been shortchanged in its representation in the upper chamber in Ottawa. This doesn't speak well of either existing or previous federal governments' approach to making sure that northern Ontario interests are adequately represented. As we know, the Charlottetown accord has been denied by the Canadian electorate at large and we also can see that there may not be, in the near future, an elected Senate in this country. I would urge the federal government to at least, if we're going to continue with the current system for the time being, to make sure that the region of northern Ontario is adequately represented in that chamber, in the Senate.

I understand where a lot of people are coming from with respect to wanting their special interests represented in a Senate. I have received correspondence, as I'm sure my other colleagues from the north have, from Save Our North, for example, asking that no less than 50% of the senators, or three, under the Charlottetown proposal, be elected from northern Ontario.

I just want to say that, while I have some sympathy for my fellow northerners, I don't see how you can justify having three out of six senators in the entire province come from the region of northern Ontario, as indeed I don't see how you can justify having three of them come from Metro Toronto or any other region of the province.

Interjection: His bill says two.

Mr Eves: I know his bill says two, but Save Our North says three. I understand their frustration and I understand their concern, but then I say to them, "What are you going to say to the people in southwestern Ontario or eastern Ontario, or Metro Toronto, for that matter?"

I note that the leader of the Liberal Party, Ms McLeod, opposes a quota system. She made that quite clear in a quote in an article in the *Globe and Mail* on September 11 of this year, talking about allocating half the Senate seats to women. "I am extremely concerned that the Premier seems to have made a unilateral commitment to a quota system," Ms McLeod told a press conference."

Interjection.

Mr Eves: I understand that, but it's still a quota system. I think you have to remain consistent in these things. As much as some people might not understand this, I am against the quota system, as I said, for elected representatives. I don't think that works. If you want to divide it up into constituencies and you want to make sure different areas of the province are represented, that's one thing and I fully support that; in fact, I think that would be the only way to do it. If you had a province-wide system of electing senators, then the people coming from the most moneyed and populous areas of the province—let me put it that

way—would obviously have a tremendous advantage, and probably virtually every senator would be elected from the Metropolitan Toronto or at least the Golden Horseshoe area.

I don't think that's what a Senate is supposed to be there for. A Senate is supposed to be there to protect different regions, not only of the country but indeed individual provinces, and a Senate is supposed to be there to protect minority interests etc. That is the whole reason why a Senate is part of our bicameral system in the parliamentary system we have, in the first place.

So I am fully supportive of the member's principle. I have a couple of problems, obviously, as he's not included Parry Sound-Muskoka in his definition of northern Ontario, but I am fully supportive of the principle that, as a region, northern Ontario has indeed been underrepresented in the past in the Senate, when it was appointed—and perhaps that will continue to be the case for the near future, at least. In the future, if indeed we do have an elected Senate, which I firmly believe we should have if we're going to retain that body, then I think every geographical area of the province should be represented and northern Ontario certainly should be no exception.

Mr Frank Mclash (Kenora): It's a pleasure for me to participate in this resolution this morning. An Act to provide for Representation of Northern Ontario in the Senate of Canada.

Let me start off by saying that I must disagree strongly with what the member for Fort York, or what we know as "Trawna" up north, has said. He indicated that the train has left the station. If he'd done a little bit of research he would have found out that the federal government has taken the train out of northern Ontario. It has not only left the station but it has left northern Ontario.

I think that points to a very important fact: that people from the Toronto area are not really familiar with what's happening up there. I must say that I'm quite disappointed when I hear statements such as that from people who represent this area without much research going into it, without much background of the issue or knowledge of the issue. I hear that every day from this government and in this House and it concerns me greatly. So again, I think it just points out the importance of what the member for Timiskaming is trying to bring forth.

Yes, we know that the referendum is over, it's past, it's history, it's on the back burner, but I think we have to make a statement in this House that we need effective representation in not only the provincial government, in the federal government, but also in the Senate, a very—well, we're not sure really what kind of an institution, but an institution that I see as very important to this country today and I'm sure we'll find out how important it will become over the years to come. But again, we're hearing from all of our municipalities suggesting that we have to have on the record the fact that we do need representation in that body.

I'd just like to go on to quote from the Toronto Star. It's August 16, 1992. The headline reads, "The Abandoned North." Let me just quote a few lines from this very important article. It was an article written by somebody here

in Toronto. It's an article written around Timmins, a city in northern Ontario: "More than a year ago, a group of Timmins-based geologists realized that the lifeblood of their industry—mineral exploration and development—was draining out of Canada to South America, especially Chile, and also to Mexico. More shocking, the geologists realized also that no one seemed to know or to care." I think that points out a very important fact: that often in northern Ontario we are forgotten.

The article—again, a very good article—goes on to quote Alan Pope, a former Conservative provincial cabinet minister: "A most forceful expression of this sense of abandonment comes from Alan Pope, former Conservative provincial cabinet minister and now a lawyer in Timmins. He says: 'We've fallen off the political map. It's as if the nation has decided, out of guilt about resource extraction, that the north now belongs to us alone, no longer to it.'"

I think there's a very important message in that quote from a former provincial cabinet minister who served at one time in this House. We've fallen off the political map. I think that says a lot.

The member previously spoke about the mining industry—as most members in the House will know, an industry that's very near and dear to me, representing an area which has possibly two of the largest gold mines in North America. When the member goes on to tell us all about the beautiful things that are happening in the mining industry, all he has to do is take a look at the facts, the statistics that are before him. Revenues from mining in 1989: We looked at \$7.3 billion in revenue from mining for the provincial government. In 1990 that decreased to \$6.4 billion. In 1991 we're looking at \$5.1 billion. I can't emphasize the importance of the drop in that revenue and the importance that the government must look at that industry, an industry in the north and one that I really feel would be promoted by an effective Senate.

We talk about cancellation of flow-through shares, cancellation by the federal government of an extremely important program that was put in mining throughout northern Ontario, put in prospectors in northern Ontario and boosted the economy in northern Ontario like nothing else before. I must say, people were excited about the program, people saw it working, and all of a sudden the federal government has again ignored the needs of northern Ontario by dropping that very important program.

If we take a look at employment in mining and again how important the mining industry was to us when at one time it employed an estimated 30,000 people—that's going back to the early 1980s—I say today that we are down to approximately 20,000 northern Ontarians being employed in that industry now. If the federal government can't see the importance of that program to us in the north and can't see what's happening in the mining industry throughout the north, I think we need maybe a little bit more of a voice.

1050

The member for Timiskaming indicated earlier that out of 24 senators we're now down to one representing northern Ontario. I don't think that is effective in any way in representing those people of the north, those people who

face unemployment rates of 18% or 20% throughout. I have communities in my riding that face up to 80% unemployment, and I am sure that there are many members, especially the member for Fort York—Toronto as we know it up there—who have never been to a place, a village, a community in my riding with unemployment of 80% to 85%. I'm sure he just can't imagine what that community would be like.

Again, I think we have to bring that forth not only to this provincial level of government but it has to be brought forth in an effective manner to the federal government. I must say we can only do that through effective representation, not only in our federal and provincial governments, but again, effective representation in the Senate, whatever form it might want to take following the back burner of the referendum when it does again come to the forefront.

I must say that many of the communities throughout my riding have put forth some support for this important resolution. They know that the referendum is a dead issue now, but they know this lack of representation that we're facing in the north.

In conclusion, I would just like to thank the member for Timiskaming for bringing forth this very important issue on behalf of northerners, on behalf of the northerners who represent the province in this House and, as I say, on behalf of the many people who cover 90% of the land mass of this province. Even though we're a small percentage in population, we are a large land mass. Again I thank the member for bringing this issue on to the record here in the provincial Legislature.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The time allotted to the opposition has already been exhausted; you used your 15 minutes and so did the government. There are five minutes left. If anybody wants to use it, you're free to do so. If not—would you like to use it?

Mr Ramsay: Yes, I would.

The Deputy Speaker: Fine. Is there unanimous consent? Agreed? Agreed. So therefore you have seven minutes.

Mr Ramsay: The first thing I'd like to do is thank all members of the House who have agreed to unanimous consent to allow me to use up the extra time the Progressive Conservative Party had let to this House this morning on private members' business. I appreciate that.

The next thing I'd like to do is to thank all those members of the House who contributed to this debate. I obviously want to give special thanks to the members for Kenora and Algoma-Manitoulin, who made the case with me today. I'd also like to thank the member for Cochrane South for speaking and contributing to the debate and agreeing with the principle of this bill. I appreciate that very much. Also, to the member for Parry Sound, I certainly sympathize with some of the things the member for Parry Sound had said and I'd like to address some of those issues.

I must say that when I had considered bringing this bill forward, the biggest question for me was, where do you draw the line? Where do you draw the geographic region of northern Ontario? Since this had to be formulated in

regard to federal ridings, as that's how we would elect a Senate—through federal election in our federal constituencies—I had to make that line based upon federal constituency borders.

So that proposed a bit of difficulty for me, because instead of having to go with the definition of northern Ontario as defined by the province and the government of Ontario, I had to find my own border. What made it very difficult for me was the inclusion of the area of Muskoka. I would just like to say to my good friends who live in Muskoka that it's one of the most beautiful areas of Ontario; I have a lot of good friends there.

Most of us in the north don't have that northern relationship with the people of Muskoka as it's so close to the city of Toronto and southern Ontario, so it was very difficult for me to include Parry Sound and Muskoka as a region of northern Ontario. Also, we're not resource-based in Muskoka as we are in the rest of northern Ontario, so we found that a bit difficult.

In conclusion, I would just like to comment on the remarks made by the member for Fort York, the first member today to respond to this private member's bill. Quite frankly, it really saddened me, and I guess I would have to say "Touché," with regard to why I'm here today as one of the representatives from northern Ontario, bringing forward a bill such as this that espouses the principle of northern representation. I say "Touché" because the first member who gets up is a member from one of the most populated areas of downtown Toronto, to say that northern Ontario shouldn't be getting this sort of special privilege and that this matter is not important. I have to tell you, as a member from northern Ontario, that this matter is very important, and in a sense it is very important because northerners want to have a say.

We don't, in northern Ontario, want charity. We want to be able to live our own lives and to have strong representation and to provide a livelihood for own families and especially for our children, because our problem is that we do not have the opportunities in northern Ontario and our children leave us. That's something that doesn't happen as much in any other region of Ontario as it does in the north, and that's the sad thing.

This bill, if the member would have looked at it more closely, is really a cry from the wilderness, from us who represent northern Ontario. It's a cry to be recognized, a cry to be represented in one of the chambers of our political system here in the country, the Senate of Canada. So it's a cry that we no longer want to be dependent: dependent upon big business, big unions and big government. We want to be able to provide our own livelihoods for ourselves and our families.

I will be here in this House as long as the people of Timiskaming allow me the privilege to be standing in my place and speaking on behalf of northern Ontario. I think it's a great challenge for the members from northern Ontario to do that, as we're tremendously outnumbered, 16 in the 130 members that we have here. But I see that as my job, and I will continue to do that while I have that privilege.

The Deputy Speaker: The time allotted for this ballot item has expired.

LABOUR RELATIONS
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL

Mrs Witmer moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 76, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les relations de travail

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): You have 10 minutes to make your presentation.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): This bill, which I first introduced on November 7, 1991, makes the secret ballot vote mandatory for certification, ratification of a collective agreement and the decision to strike.

You may ask why I am putting this bill forward. It's most appropriate that I put this bill forward particularly today, as we vote this evening on Bill 40, because the right to a secret ballot vote has been requested by thousands and thousands of groups and individuals throughout the province as we debated labour law reform. Yet this government has refused to include this request in the Bill 40 reforms.

Today this government has one final opportunity to demonstrate to the people of this province that it is responsive to the people's concerns. I'd like to read a letter that I received from a gentleman in Guelph. I have to tell you that I have received several hundreds of letters and communications. He says as follows:

"I have been manipulated by unions and businesses alike during 20 working years. I never believed I had all the facts on the rare occasions I was allowed to cast a vote. If you truly want workers to exert control over their own destinies, give them the right to a secret ballot vote whenever possible. By making this a mandatory provision, you will force businesses and unions alike to ensure that the workers receive all of the information necessary to make an informed decision. This provision will fulfil Mr Gord Wilson and Mr Mackenzie's stated intent—specifically, to advance the interests of working people, to make the workplace more open, responsive and democratic and to eliminate threats to these worthy goals."

He concludes by saying in his letter to Bob Rae: "Please demonstrate your belief in the ability of Ontario's working people to make rational decisions when provided with complete, factual information."

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That's one of the reasons I am putting forward this bill today. He reflects the feelings of thousands of workers in this province. I'm also putting this bill forward because it is an attempt to restore balance and fairness to labour relations reform and to restore some of the workers' rights which have been removed by Bill 40.

Under Bill 40, the ease by which a union can be certified is such that employees who do not want to belong to a union must join. The bill does not require a secret ballot, it eliminates post-application petitions and it eliminates the adequate-membership-support condition in the case of a perceived unfair practice. In the process, this legislation is going to give the Ontario Labour Relations Board the power to certify a union even if the required level of sup-

port is not met. In short, the amendments in Bill 40 will alter the certification process from determining the true wishes of employees to facilitating union certification.

I strongly believe that if we are to have the fairness and the equality that the Minister of Labour has talked about for almost two years, all workers in this province should have the right to a free and democratic vote. Workers should have the right to decide for themselves, free of any interference or intimidation from any source, whether or not to have a union represent them, to accept a contract or to go out on strike. Obviously, a secret ballot vote is the only fair way of allowing them to do so. Furthermore, our society has long recognized a secret ballot vote as the only truly satisfactory way of enabling one to freely express one's opinion. Why is this government so opposed to a secret ballot vote?

As I said before, Bill 40 restricts the right to oppose unions by taking away an employee's right to revoke a membership card after the union has applied for certification and to petition against the union's application. Further, under Bill 40, only 55% of the employees in a bargaining unit need to sign cards in order for the union to be certified. What about the other 45% of the people who may not want to join a union? Their freedom of choice has been eliminated. They will be forced to join the union. What about the workers who change their minds after signing the union card? They do not even have the same rights and protection as a consumer dealing with a door-to-door salesman. The consumer, at least, gets a three-day grace period to change his or her mind. It is unbelievable that employees who sign a union card will not, under Bill 40, have the same basic consumer rights that the rest of us take for granted.

Given that Bill 40 seriously infringes on freedom of choice in joining a union, the certification process must be amended to ensure that it respects the fundamental principles of fairness, freedom of information and protection of privacy. All employees must have freedom of choice through a secret ballot vote. A secret ballot vote is also important because certification of a union dramatically changes the workplace. When a union is certified, it is granted exclusive bargaining rights, and the individual workers lose any individual right to bargain with their employer. It is a critical choice that workers must make, and it should be made as fairly and as honestly as possible.

The same argument applies in the case of ratification and strike votes. I am surprised that this government has not exhibited faith in the collective judgement of workers. Why is this government so afraid of properly conducted secret ballot votes? It is time to change the law if we are to move forward in this province. In all other decision-making situations, we allow individuals the freedom to choose after hearing all sides of an issue.

We have political campaigns that try to do that. We have advertising promotions. We have independent consumer product evaluations. We have many laws to protect the individual's right of free and informed choice in such situations. Now is the time to fully extend those same protections to every individual in the workplace. The employee must have the opportunity to make his or her

choice by means of a secret ballot vote. There will then be no doubt that whatever position is taken is the freely expressed view of the people involved, and that, I would like to tell the government, is going to strengthen the credibility of the union that is representing the employees.

You're going to tell me, and you've already said, "We have some votes." Yes, I know that some unions do have secret ballot votes, but it's not mandatory. Surely now is the time to move forward and take a look at what's happening in the rest of the world. It's time for this government to recognize that individuals have the right to make their own decisions about their own futures. The time has come in Ontario for self-determination in the workplace.

People working in this province today are informed and are able to think for themselves. They are able to understand the consequences of joining or not joining a union and they need to be given the opportunity to express the choice. I ask this government today, why do you continue to deny the people in this province the freedom of choice? Why do you deny them the basic democratic right of a secret ballot vote?

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): I'm pleased to speak against this motion this morning. First of all, it's incredible to me as I listen to some of the conversations that I've heard over the past 22 months on this basic secret ballot vote argument, and most of it is because they talk about—and I'm going to quote here from the member opposite—"having faith in the collective judgement of the people who are going to be making the choice as to whether or not they want to join a union." That's exactly why we are not going with a mandatory secret ballot vote and why we oppose it and will oppose it to the nth degree.

In spite of years of lobbying by the business community for mandatory secret ballot votes, neither the Progressive Conservative government for the some 40-odd years that it was in power nor the Liberal government for the five years that it was in power ever changed it to a mandatory secret ballot vote. They certainly had the opportunity. The question to ask, I guess, is, why didn't they do it when they were in power?

Secondly, the thing is that the experience of mandatory secret ballots is probably most expressed in the United States of America. There it's very evident that there is no democratic process allowed. The only industrial democracy in the world where it is used is the United States. BC just threw it out last week. In fact, what has happened is that they have ended up with more terminations during an organizing drive, with a steady increase in the interference in the balloting and certification process, resulting in a 750% increase in unfair labour practices alone, just in that. Industrial specialists have claimed that and have stated, no matter what their political stripe, that the secret ballot process impedes the collective bargaining process.

The free expression of the individual people is that in signing the cards they are saying, "I want to join this particular union." I have the sense when I listen to some of the people talking about mandatory secret ballots that a union organizer walks into the plant one day and says, "I've come to organize you and we're going to organize

you in the next 24 hours and no one has a chance to change his mind or anything."

The reality of that is that, first of all, union organizers from the larger unions don't have access on to the floor of the plants. So someone has to come to them and ask them: "We'd like to join the union. How do we go about doing that?" Then those people within the store or within the plant or whatever it is that's being organized have to go and find out who's working, what their names are.

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They have to do an awful lot of work in trying to go and see these people and they usually don't do it in the workplace, because the employer frowns upon any kind of union organizing being done in the workplace, and people are usually penalized for doing so. So it's done after hours, in their homes, wherever they can meet so that they can, unfortunately, sign these cards in a clandestine manner.

But the opposition seems to want to have its cake and eat it too. They want all the organizing still to be done by the union organizers, but then they want a mandatory secret ballot for everything, regardless of what percentage of union cards are signed. In the Ontario Labour Relations Act right now, if it's 45% to 55% there is a vote. Anything over 55%, it's an automatic certification, they get the union.

That's saying that if there are 100 employees and the organizers sign up 90% of the 100 employees and then they bring it to the Ontario Labour Relations Board and the board decides that 30 of those cards aren't valid, they're down to 60; they're automatically certified. If they find out that 50 of those cards aren't valid, they're down to 40 and they can't form a union. But if they find out that there's something between that 45% and 55%, then they send it back and the whole workplace votes, in a secret ballot manner, on that certification. So we do have a form of mandatory secret ballot, and I think the arguments by the opposition are specious.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I'm pleased to join in the debate on this bill. Let me say at the outset that it is an amendment which the member has brought forward at the committee stage as we dealt with Bill 40. At that point in time, I had indicated and signified my support for the amendments and certainly would signify my support for the bill.

I do have some reservations in doing so. As I believe it is an important piece of legislation in bringing forward the secret ballot or the right of a worker to freely choose as to how his workplace is to be governed, I do not believe it goes far enough. In that respect, I think it is important to note that under this legislation, if there are 45% of union cards signed by workers, that would trigger a secret ballot vote.

We in my party brought forward an amendment in this area but lowered the trigger point from 45% to 30%. In other words, if there were 30% of the men and women in any one workplace signing union cards, that signified to us a significant level of support which could and should warrant a secret ballot vote, where the workers, all workers, would

be able to decide how their workplace is to be governed, and the decision would be carried by a majority.

As a result, I support the principle embraced in the legislation. I would certainly like to have seen the legislation altered to allow a reduced threshold before a secret vote was triggered, but that is not the position of the Progressive Conservative Party. I do, however, support the legislation.

I am quite certain, however, that the government members will not be supporting this piece of legislation. The parliamentary assistant has already indicated that they won't. The NDP members did not support a lowered threshold of union support from 40% to 30%, so I can't imagine how they would support something in the area of 45%.

But I do think this particular piece of legislation is important, as it speaks to a principle, and the principle is, are we ready as legislators in this province to give to workers in this province the right to decide how their workplace is to be governed? It is not a magical and mystical principle. The question is, are we as legislators ready to allow workers to decide how they wish their workplace to be governed? Not as we in this chamber feel their workplace should be governed or how we in this chamber dictate how their workplace is to be governed, but rather to put in process the framework under which workers can make that decision.

It is abundantly clear to me that the NDP government is not ready to take that step. If they were ready to take that step, they would have agreed to changing Bill 40 to allow a lower threshold and giving to the workers of this province the right to decide by a majority vote, with full protection against coercion and intimidation, how their workplace is to be governed. But they are just not prepared, if not ill-prepared, to take that step.

I listened yesterday to some of the debate that went on in the chamber on Bill 40. I noted that a number of comments were made by NDP members on the rights of workers. We are here today on Thursday; today is the day that Bill 40 will most likely pass into law, notwithstanding the very deep and genuine concerns of many hundreds of thousands of people in this province. It seems to me that it doesn't matter how many times you say it, it just doesn't seem to sink in to the government members: It is not a question as to whether one is in favour of or opposed to unions; it is a question in principle, Madam Parliamentary Assistant, of whether the government is going to allow workers to make that choice.

Bill 40 takes away the rights of workers in how their workplace is to be governed. If there is anything that people in this country, let alone this province, understand, it is the right of democracy, the right of majority rule. It is clear that Bill 40, not only in the organizing situation but in a variety of other ways, takes away the very basic right that many people share in this country, that is, the right to decide by a majority rule how their workplace is to be governed.

We of course brought forward amendments dealing with giving workers notification. It is one thing to say you have rights under the Labour Relations Act, but the ques-

tion is, if you do not give to workers notification of what their rights are, then those rights, I suggest, are hollow indeed. They are there, for workers to look through the Labour Relations Act, but it seems to me that if we want to build a more harmonious relationship of cooperation and consultation, we must make it mandatory in legislation that workers be given notice of what their rights are: what they can do, what their employers can do, what organizing unions can do, what their employers cannot do, what organizing unions cannot do, and the penalties if an unfair labour practice takes place.

It seems incredible in this year of 1992 that a government would vote against giving workers that type of notice. The record will show that the NDP government members voted clearly against that notification of workers in this province.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): You're absolutely right.

Mr Offer: Now the government members on the other side say I'm absolutely right; thank you very much. Absolutely, they did vote against giving workers notice of their rights under the Labour Relations Act. They voted against enhancing and protecting the rights of workers in an organizing drive. They voted against making certain there were protections for workers in the area of intimidation and coercion and they voted against giving to workers the democratic right to decide how their workplace is to be governed.

1120

They did so, I must say, by characterizing the opponents to Bill 40 and to the principles embraced in the bill before this Legislature as somehow a hysterical response to labour relations change. I won't dwell too long on that area, but we all know there isn't an NDP member who does not stand up on this bill at some time or another and say: "Boy, that darn big business community. They were there with billboards and they were there saying how difficult the labour relations changes were going to be." But you never heard the same concerns voiced by the government members over, for instance, the ads put out by the Ontario Federation of Labour or the Steelworkers union on this issue. If the government members were so concerned about one group putting out a message, why were they not concerned about another group putting out a message?

I must say, I was less concerned with that. I hope the people who are watching will recognize that if there is a group or an association or a community that has a concern with a piece of legislation that's brought forward by any level of government, I would hope it would still be permissible in this province that they could express those concerns in the way in which they feel is most appropriate within the bounds of law.

I am very concerned when government members see this as somehow a slap in the face, that goodness gracious, some people who were opposed to a piece of legislation had the audacity to take those concerns in the way they felt was best able to reach the general public. I was not concerned, in many ways, with the business community doing that. I was not concerned in the way in which the Ontario

Federation of Labour or the Steelworkers brought forward their position on the bill.

I felt, and still feel, that in a hopefully free society, individuals, groups and associations would be able to do that without for some reason incurring the wrath of government members who say, "How dare you issue a freedom as to your position on a particular piece of legislation?" It is absolutely frightening when a government stands up, member by member, and says, "Goodness gracious, I saw terrible billboards, I saw terrible publications, I saw terrible advertisements." What were they? They were just a group of people who had concerns about a piece of legislation and how it would affect them.

I never heard the government members stand up and say, "Not only was it bad for the business community to do that, but I think it was also bad for the OFL or the Steelworkers to bring forward their position on the bill." I disagree with that also. I think groups and associations, within the bounds of law, should be able to bring forward their concerns in the way they think is necessary.

I believe the reaction government members have had to people expressing their own concerns, expressing their own opinions on a piece of legislation, is one which is absolutely shocking to many people across this province who take freedom of speech, freedom of choice, as something that is the example for all others to follow. I do hold this government accountable. I hold this government in the most critical terms when it thinks it is absolutely necessary to castigate and criticize groups and associations for, my goodness gracious, having an opinion that—let's hold down the fort—is different from the government members'. My goodness, the height of arrogance is across the chamber at this point in time.

So we are left with a principle, a principle which is embraced in this legislation: Are we ready to allow workers the freedom to choose how their workplace is to be governed? Are we going to allow workers to make an informed choice to decide what is in their best interests, to decide how they wish to be governed, to make that decision free of intimidation and coercion? Are we going to allow a piece of legislation which embraces that principle to move forward or are we going to have it cut down by the government?

I believe this principle is one that should go forward. I have indicated to the member who has brought forward the legislation that though I agree with the principle, I am a little concerned with some of the substance around it. I would have liked it to have gone further, but I believe that notwithstanding my concerns, it is still one heck of a lot better than the way in which the government is seeking to move in the area of Bill 40. It is an issue of workers' rights. It is an issue of workers' choice. It is an issue of freedom of workers in this province to make a decision on how their workplace is to be governed. I am content to leave that decision up to the workers of this province. This bill and the principle under it does so, and I will be supporting this legislation in principle.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I will be supporting this private member's bill by my colleague Elizabeth Witmer, who is our Labour critic. I'm very pleased she's

brought it forward, because it's very much a response to requests we heard as we sat through the Bill 40 hearings. The bill is designed to protect individuals' rights to decide, free of interference; a very simple concept. They wanted to be free of interference and free of influence from any source, whether it be the union or the company, whether they want to go on strike or whether they want to sign a contract or whether they want to in fact be a member of a union.

It goes to the fundamentals of democracy. Anyone who cares about the democratic process and wants to ensure that the true wishes of an employee are known should not have any problems with this bill. I notice that my colleagues on the New Democratic side seem to be heckling a little bit. They don't like this democratic idea.

I'd like to quote from Ramsey Clark from 1990. He was speaking about the US Democratic Party, but I think it goes very much for this New Democratic Party. He said, "The Democratic Party is a party in name only, not in shared belief."

That's more and more abundantly clear every day. This is simply to allow workers to express their choice. They want to be able to express their choice—they told us in Bill 40—as to whether certification should take place. It's a question of whose rights are more important, the employees' or the union bosses'? Quite obviously, from the comments we're hearing from NDP members, they think the union bosses' are more important. The rights of employees should always outweigh the rights of trade unions but, apparently, under the NDP that is not the case.

I'd like to quote from Professor John Crispo, when he said: "I know why unions don't want votes. They can't win them."

Let's just examine the circumstances under which the few votes exist today in unions. Typically, a strike vote is taken six or more months before a strike occurs and the workers are just giving, in principle, backing to the union. They are not talking about the details of the union contract. Often they're quite outraged when they have to go out on strike, but feel they have to.

1130

The question of fairness and equity for all workers should be the guiding light in deciding how you vote on this. Should workers have the right to decide in a free and democratic vote on issues that affect their livelihood? I don't think there can be too many doubts about what that question is. It's very simply, are they allowed to choose their own destiny?

The perceived good of greater unionization does not justify infringing on employees' civil liberties, as indeed we have seen under Bill 40. This will restore some balance, because Bill 40 takes away the rights of individual workers. It takes away the right to petitions to get out of unionization when they have in error signed to join a union.

They've taken away the right of certification only where the employees agree. Under Bill 40, certification can take place where it's considered that unfair labour practices have occurred. These may have occurred through an error on the employer's part, which is particularly

prevalent with small companies that don't have the expertise in negotiating that large unions do. We're not talking about large employers; we're talking about small employers.

This government has allowed itself to be more concerned with maintaining and indeed enhancing the power of union bosses, not just at the expense of employers but of the workers too. This government is being controlled by special interest groups—we've seen this over and over again—particularly union bosses.

Quite frankly, Bill 40 is payoff time for the NDP, for the support it has received over the years, the money which is checked off from union contributions and goes to the NDP. A lot of workers, as we've seen in certain test cases, object to that money going to the NDP.

Our laws protect consumers against high-pressure sales tactics. If you buy a settee and three days later you decide you've made a mistake, you can go back and say, "No, I didn't want to do this." But this government does not want to allow members of a union the same kind of protection as consumers of products, which cost an awful lot less than the payments made to a union over the years.

Bill 40 is an unacceptable violation of the most democratic rights and freedoms we've come to expect. It's only that union membership is a payoff to the NDP.

Governments spend money informing consumers as to their rights, yet this government does not want to allow those rights to be extended to those who inadvertently join a union or who may be in a union and don't want a strike. That seems to be fundamentally unfair. Democracy: a very simple process where the majority of people decide, something this government has consistently denied to workers of this province. I will be supporting Mrs Witmer's bill.

Mr Hope: It's one good morning to be participating in this debate, especially when I read the bill. Where do you begin?

We've been going through this for five weeks and I hear the Liberals and Tories talk about democracy and the rights of individual workers. I remember a bill called Bill 208, where workers wanted to exercise their right and their democratic right to shut equipment down that was unsafe for them and could cause death. But the Liberals and the Tories, in their dramatic way, said, "No, the employer will tell you whether that workplace is safe or not, or that machine is safe." So it's hard to get the balanced perspective. It's amazing when you find out when they're in government what they say.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. If you want to make any comments, do so from your seat. The member for Chatham-Kent.

Mr Hope: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It's unfortunate they have to do that, but again, when we talk about workers' democratic rights, when they talk about the protection—I read this piece of legislation. They talk about the right to vote. Well, it says, and I heard the comment made, that it protects the employer and the employee in their democratic rights. Who's going to protect that individual who wishes to join a trade union or an organization—forgetting

how the chamber of commerce is an organization—to represent his interests in that workplace?

We sit here and look at this piece and it says it's going to protect everybody's rights. What about the individual who is coerced by a supervisor and put on dirty jobs? How do you prove that, changing around? How do you protect the democratic rights of those individuals who want to exercise—inside the workplace, being threatened with their paycheque each week? How can the individual make a good decision, having a paycheque waved in front of his face when they're saying: "If you vote against the union you'll keep your paycheque. If you vote for the union you'll be searching for new employment come the end of the year"?

It's very disheartening to hear some of the comments coming from the Liberals and the Tories. What I hear out of their mouths is that they're saying the workers of this province are stupid people. That's the reference they're making to the workers in this province. They're calling them stupid individuals.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. You've had your chance to voice your opinion. It's now his turn. The member for Chatham-Kent.

On a point of order?

Mr Offer: On a point of order, yes, Mr Speaker: The member made a statement as to what the Liberals, I being a representative, stated. In fact, that could not be further from the truth. We believe the workers should have—

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Chatham-Kent.

Mr Hope: One of the other important issues is about individuals having the right, when they do sign the card, to allow them to exercise their rights without coercion. One of the important things is that an individual always has the right. I believe the working force of this province is well educated on trade unions, as we see in our own communities, what trade unions do when they sit on United Way boards of directors and provide community programming and help out there at the social service end of things, fighting for workers. So the knowledge base of individuals around unions is very high.

One of the issues that I think is very important is to make sure the workers themselves have an ability to exercise, without having—it's bad enough that they have their paycheques threatened. When we talk about the individual having the right to determine what goes on in the workplace, if it wasn't for a federal policy that's come into place called free trade, when we talk about giving workers individual rights, when we see plants that are making profits closing, those workers in that workplace don't have a say, because the company tells them what's best.

I'm sorry to say that when I read this, it does nothing. You can see where the Liberals and Tories are coming from. They're supporting the business community, hopefully, the same ones who are telling us jobs are being lost through this legislation, the same ones who, I clearly remember, in 1988 were telling us about all the jobs that were going to be created under free trade. I remember that.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): Come on. You were still in high school. You were on that six-year course.

Mr Hope: Maybe I was still there in high school.

Mr Jackson: You were.

Mr Hope: Unfortunately, the Tory members think they're so knowledgeable, but we saw what happened with Tory policies when they took place on free trade in 1988.

There's one important thing I really want to say. I support recycling programs, and this is what I think should be done with the legislation.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm pleased to rise and speak in support of the bill put forward by my colleague the member for Waterloo North. The member for Waterloo North's bill seeks to give workers democratic rights that do not exist in the current Labour Relations Act.

The bill requires unions to hold secret ballot votes for certification, for ratification of collective agreements and for all strike votes. The secret ballot vote enables workers to decide for themselves, free of intimidation or harassment, whether or not to have a union represent them, whether or not they want to accept a contract or whether or not they wish to go on strike.

1140

Under the NDP's labour reforms, the certification process is shifted from an emphasis on determining the true wishes of employees to an emphasis on facilitating unionization. Post-application petitions, which currently represent the only way in which employees can articulate their desire not to join a union, will be eliminated under the NDP's Bill 40. A secret ballot would help restore what Bill 40 eliminates: the right of workers to have choice. A choice on whether to join a union, a choice on whether they want to agree on a contract and a choice on when to go on strike or to go on strike.

A government that pretends to represent Ontario workers seems to have lost sight of the most important issue confronting labour in this province and that is finding and maintaining a job. Each day we lose 500 jobs in this province. There are now more than 609,000 people in Ontario collecting unemployment insurance and 1.2 million collecting welfare. Adopting a secret ballot might alleviate some of the concerns of business that Bill 40 is designed to promote and facilitate unionization.

Business already feels under siege with the replacement workers provision of Bill 40. This provision severely limits the number of employees who can perform work that needs to be done during a strike. This will do great harm to an employer's ability to continue to operate during a strike and fill customer orders. Even employees who voted against a strike would be forbidden from crossing a picket line to return to work. So much for workers' rights.

In the two minutes remaining, I just want to quote from a number of concerned people in my riding. Jim Rennie of Collingwood writes: "My company, Rennie Publications Inc, has grown from a one-man operation to an employer of seven to eight people in Collingwood during the 1980s. We have another big expansion in the works for this summer. Trust me, if the NDP brings in this labour law, I will start a

US branch plant and publish this new venture from there. I cannot and will not expand in Ontario in the face of these proposed regulations."

Ken Havens of Collingwood writes: "Small business in the last few years has been the brunt of unpopular legislative decisions, but the latest change to the Labour Relations Act, if passed, would have profound effects on our already fragile provincial economy. Even though small business operators are a minority in a voter line, they have to be heard. Colleagues aware of the act share my views and many will begin dismantling and perhaps moving their assets."

Jean Smart of Creemore writes, "If this law comes into effect, I will probably lay off all of my staff and work it alone with one employee, probably my bookkeeper, to be sure your tax dollars keep going in." She's writing to the Premier. "This would be a loss of six jobs."

The list goes on and on. My colleague's bill—my colleague from Waterloo North—gives workers rights and sends a message to the business community and to individuals that someone at Queen's Park is listening. This bill represents just one of some 94 amendments put forward by Mrs Witmer on behalf of the Ontario PC caucus. Workers want jobs. Bill 40 kills jobs. The greatest dignity you can give an individual is the opportunity and the dignity that comes with a job. Bill 40 does not do this and it should be scrapped.

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I'm delighted to have this opportunity to speak in favour of Bill 40 and against the amendments suggested by the member for Waterloo North. Throughout the debating of amendments to the Labour Relations Act, both in this chamber and in the wider world, there has been a kind of unreality. In Bill 76 we have a continuation of that unreality. Those who oppose Bill 40 are like Don Quixote: They're tilting at windmills. The disastrous act that opponents have conjured out of thin air does not exist. What we have in reality is a very reasonable bill, a bill that has been modified as a result of a long and thorough process of consultation, a bill that contains nothing that is not already operating well and without dire consequences in other jurisdictions.

I know that working people in my riding and all over the province have been asking that certain injustices be put right. They wanted some obstacles to unionization to be removed and they wanted no repeats of the situation where, when a workplace was struck because workers had no other recourse in order to get fair treatment, busloads of replacement workers could be brought in. The confrontation caused by this practice sometimes led to a deteriorating situation, violence and injury. Workers knew that if they were to be able to bargain fairly with their employers and if relations were to be cooperative and friendly, this situation had to be avoided.

Instead of a reasoned reaction to these moderate and reasonable changes, we have witnessed deliberately induced and carefully orchestrated hysteria. Vast sums of money have been spent and experts have been hired to spread lies about the probable consequences of Bill 40. Far from the provisions of this bill endangering the economy of Ontario, it is this hysterical opposition which might

prove a self-fulfilling prophecy and become the direct cause of job loss and damage to the economy in Ontario.

Small businesses in my riding have written to me and visited me because they were concerned about this bill. They believe that union organizers will be on their doorstep the day after the bill becomes law, that they will be forced to pay wages they cannot afford and that their businesses will be ruined. But the supposed facts and figures which are motivating them are phoney.

Small businesses have been subject to unionization for a long time. There will be no drastic change. I can only advise those business people to resist panic, continue to treat their employees as the fellow human beings they are and work with them for the success which benefits employer and employee alike.

I am puzzled as to the relevance of Bill 76. It has supposedly two purposes: to provide that representation on strike votes and ratification votes of a collective agreement is mandatory in all cases and to require secret ballots in all such votes. However, the Ontario Labour Relations Act already requires a secret ballot vote where membership support is below 55%. Bill 40 does not change this. The act already provides that when dealing with votes or accepting a contract, any employer may require its final offer to be submitted to a secret ballot vote before a strike or a lockout begins.

Also under Bill 40 there must be a mandatory strike vote by secret ballot resulting in a show of support by 60% of those voting in order for the replacement provisions to apply. It is already customary for union constitutions to require that strike votes be taken before a strike is called. So what is the fuss about?

This bill is as insubstantial and unwarranted as the rest of the opposition to Bill 40. I suggest that those who view labour as a mere commodity should have their noses rubbed in what that concept, if freed from laws and regulations—and, yes, unions—really means.

They could start by reading John Steinbeck's great novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, the story of what happened to a hardworking family of Oklahoma sharecroppers when tractors took over and they became mere encumbrances on the land that they worked. What is the point of modern technology, of higher productivity, if it doesn't lead to shorter working hours and a higher standard of living for all, but instead to the impoverishment of the many and the advantage of the few? On those terms, "progress" could become a synonym for "disaster."

We need to dismiss the campaign against Bill 40 as the mirage it is and keep moving towards greater fairness and greater prosperity for all. I look forward to the passage of Bill 40. Essential services will not cease to operate; jobs will not be lost; businesses will not be destroyed. Bill 76 is an irrelevance and I shall not be voting for it.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Burlington South.

Mr Jackson: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'm very delighted to stand and respond in support of my colleague the member for Waterloo North.

First of all, let me say that I admire the work she has done in communicating very clearly and cogently the issues and concerns around Bill 40. I also admire her commitment to the principles she believes in.

I've known my colleague for many years. Prior to her arrival here, I watched her as a trustee on her local school board and I knew that she brought with her at that time a sense of balance between the interests of the teachers' federation, the interests of the children she served, and her taxpayers. She comes very much from that kind of a background and an understanding and awareness, and she has applied it today to something she believes very strongly in, which is democracy and the right of privacy and protection under the law in order to exercise your voting franchise.

1150

It's interesting that not one NDP member discussed this issue. They wanted to talk about the fearmongering around Bill 40. I don't wish to talk about Bill 40; I simply wish to talk about what the issues are around the democratic right of a vote for a worker in this province.

Why is it that the labour union bosses are so frightened of losing control of their membership? I have to believe, and history will show, that left-wing radicalism is no better or no worse than right-wing radicalism, wherever it is exercised on the face of the Earth. Frankly, when we can go to any number of Communist countries who take their manifesto directly from Marx and Engels and others, it's very clear that democracy is an inconvenience. They're very proud of the fact that, "We have democracy, we have a ballot box, but there's only one candidate." We know that history shows that balloting and democracy are a great inconvenience to socialism.

Let me illustrate my point. The fact of the matter is that on the issue of Sunday shopping in this province this party stood by its principles and said, "We will not support it." But what have they done? They've been playing poker with the future of retail workers in this province. What do they do? They say, "Look, we'll pass Bill 40 for you union bosses but we'll abandon the workers in the retail sector." That is the kind of brokering and trading that is going on with the leadership. They're losing thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars in union memberships because of unemployment. Do they want to sit down and talk about how to resolve that problem? No. Their interests are, "Let's get out there and certify a couple of hundred thousand workers and get our bank accounts topped up." That's what this is about, and you would play with the principle of democracy.

This so-called social democratic party would play with the fundamental principle of protection of a secret ballot in order to control those kinds of offensive outcomes and brokered deals behind the backs of rank-and-file workers in this province. They know, each and every one of them, that those kinds of deals—

Mr Hope: Tory policy. Your federal Tory policies.

Mr Jackson: The member for Chatham-Kent—it was interesting. You talk about waving a cheque in front of their face. I just remind the member, a noted parliamentary assistant, that we're still trying to figure out what he does

around here, but he certainly has a big paycheque waved in front of him from his party bosses who have told him how to vote on this issue. The issue is about democracy and the protection for workers who wish to become unionized or who wish not to become unionized in this province—nothing more, nothing less. It's a vote on democracy, and we're going to vote for it.

The Deputy Speaker: Mrs Witmer, you have two minutes.

Mrs Witmer: I appreciate the debate that has taken place and I'd like to assure first of all the member for Sudbury that the Ontario PC Party, of which I am a member, will certainly introduce a mandatory secret ballot vote when we are elected in the next election. I pledge to make that a priority.

I'd like to also thank my colleagues from Burlington South, York Mills and Simcoe West for their support of my motion this morning. I would like to say to the members in the opposition: I have brought this motion forward this morning on behalf of individual workers in this province. I have not brought it forward because of the business community. It's because of the letters and communications I have received from working people throughout this province, working people like my own parents, and I would like to tell you that this government needs to recognize that individuals do have the right and are very capable of making their own decisions about their own future, and that the time has come in this province for self-determination in the workplace.

People working in this province today are well informed, they are able to think for themselves, and they are able to understand the consequences of joining or not joining a union. Because of this, they need to be given the opportunity for a secret ballot vote. When you are making changes now to labour relations reform, let us truly move forward into the future and recognize workers, recognize that they are able to make their own decisions about their own futures.

I say to this government today: Demonstrate to the people that you do care about freedom of choice; demonstrate that you do care about democracy. Give them the right to a secret ballot vote.

The Deputy Speaker: The time allotted for private members' business has expired.

NORTHERN ONTARIO
SENATE REPRESENTATION ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION
DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO AU SÉNAT

Bill 84, An Act to provide for the Representation of Northern Ontario in the Senate of Canada / Loi prévoyant la représentation du Nord de l'Ontario au Sénat du Canada

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will deal first with ballot item number 29, standing in the name of Mr Ramsay. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

Mr Ramsay has moved second reading of Bill 84, An Act to provide for the Representation of Northern Ontario

in the Senate of Canada. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Pursuant to standing order 96(f), the recorded vote on this ballot item is deferred.

LABOUR RELATIONS
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL

Bill 76, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les relations de travail

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will now deal with ballot item number 30, standing in the name of Mrs Witmer. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

Mrs Witmer has moved second reading of Bill 76, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

This vote is also deferred.

Call in the members. This will be a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1157 to 1202.

NORTHERN ONTARIO
SENATE REPRESENTATION ACT
LOI DE 1992 SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION
DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO AU SÉNAT

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Will the members please take their seats.

Mr Ramsay has moved second reading of Bill 84, An Act to provide for the Representation of Northern Ontario in the Senate of Canada.

All those in favour of the motion will please rise and remain—

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Kormos, you have to take your seat, please. You cannot be in the House without taking your seat, sir.

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): Then I'm sorry, sir; I should be escorted out.

The Deputy Speaker: I have no other choice than to ask—

Mr Kormos: I don't want to vote—

The Deputy Speaker: Sergeant, will you please remove the gentleman from the House.

Mr Kormos left the chamber.

The Deputy Speaker: I will repeat the second reading. Mr Ramsay has moved second reading of Bill 84, An Act to provide for the Representation of Northern Ontario in the Senate of Canada.

All those in favour of the motion will please rise and remain standing until their names are called.

Ayes

Arnott, Bisson, Brown, Callahan, Daigeler, Eddy, Haeck, Hansen, Martin, Miclash, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), Poirier, Ramsay, Sola, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

The Deputy Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please rise and remain standing until your names are called.

Nays

Abel, Carr, Carter, Cunningham, Dadamo, Drainville, Farnan, Fletcher, Frankford, Harnick, Harrington, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jackson, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Lessard, Malkowski, MacKinnon, Mammoliti, Mancini, Marchese, Marland, Mathysen, Mills, O'Connor, Owens, Rizzo, Stockwell, Sutherland, Tilson, Turnbull, Ward (Brantford), White, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winner, Wiseman, Witmer.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 19; the nays are 40.

The Deputy Speaker: The ayes are 19; the nays are 40. I declare the motion lost.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: This is private members' hour. We've never had a roll call done by party, and I resent the fact that this roll call was done by party.

The Deputy Speaker: You have a valid point. It was a mistake by the Clerk and we apologize.

Interjection: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: You have no point of order. You have been named. I have asked the Sergeant at Arms to remove you, and this is my decision.

Interjection: You don't know whether I've got a point of order until you let me articulate it.

The Deputy Speaker: You have been removed from the House, and the order sticks. Sergeant at Arms, please.

Interjection: Am I being denied the opportunity to vote on this issue?

The Deputy Speaker: You have been asked to leave the chamber.

Interjection: God bless. Incredible.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I think this is an issue of importance to all the members in this House. I have previously been in the same position as the member for Welland-Thorold, where there are two votes being taken and I have not wanted to be in the House for one of those votes. I'm sure it must be an option for a member to be in the House for one vote and not the other. Mr Speaker, I simply ask you to give a ruling on how it can be facilitated that a member may vote on one vote when it's being recorded and not another.

The Deputy Speaker: To the member for Mississauga South, you have an extremely valid point, but I must point out to you that when the member for Welland-Thorold was sitting in the gallery, I asked him to come down, which he refused to do. Because of that negative

response on his part, and in my opinion, also not observing the decorum in this House, I named him and I asked the Sergeant at Arms to bring him out.

The member should be aware that if you don't wish to vote on an item, like this morning, you stay outside the House. Then after the vote is cast, the doors are opened. It is then for you to come in, the doors are closed and you must take your seat. This is quite clear in the orders.

It's extremely difficult for any Speaker to evict a colleague. At the same time, my responsibility is to make sure the procedures are followed very closely. That's it.

1210

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: On behalf of many members of this House, it should be noted that I don't think it was the intent of the member for Welland-Thorold. It was just a misunderstanding and I think he was confused and that's why he was asked to leave.

Also, I'm not certain that when you asked him to leave that you did name him; I didn't hear you say, "The member for Welland-Thorold." But you may have done that and Hansard will show it.

I think many of us are confused as to the procedure this morning. I've been here for five years and I did not know this.

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your seat. You raise a very valid point. On the other hand, you have to make a decision when an incident occurs. I may not have said that I named him. On the other hand, it's always that you have the power here to decide if Mr Kormos should be brought back in and I leave that up to you. I have named him afterwards and I don't want to play with that. These procedures are extremely strict, but at the same time, I just want you to be assured that my decision, as far as I'm concerned, was made, and I want to maintain it that way.

Mrs Marland: Mr Speaker, as the person who raised the original point of order and speaking as someone who has been in this House for eight years, I did not know the explanation until you gave it, that we were allowed to come in and leave or come in after the first ballot, because I've never been aware that the doors were physically unlocked between the two ballots.

Now, having that understanding, after my eight years, I'm hearing other colleagues in this House agree with me that they didn't know those were the rules. Knowing that the member for Welland-Thorold was elected at the same time I was, I would move unanimous consent that the member for Welland-Thorold be permitted to return to the House at this point and take his chair for a vote of his choice.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I want to bring to the members of the assembly just the one point, that the Speaker is in a difficult position. I understand what the members are saying, but I feel it's important that we maintain the decision of the Speaker because he has the responsibility to keep decorum in the House. I'd ask members to keep that in mind, as much as I agree with some of the things they're saying.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): In all matters of parliamentary democracy, the Speaker's decision is final and the members of this House will respect that decision. That is very clear and at no point would a single member advocate that you relinquish that historical responsibility of the Speaker now to determine, in some form of straw vote or motion, whether or not one of our members, one of our colleagues, should or should not be here.

We can, Mr Speaker, because of your nature, prevail upon you to reconsider the decision you made, which, in fairness to you, was difficult because there was not the order and the decorum in the House at the time. You were put in a difficult position and we believe that on review of Hansard and with the guidance of the Clerk, you would determine that the member for Welland-Thorold was in the process of raising a point of order. We believe, sir, that he was not given an opportunity to raise that point of order, but he had by his attendance in the House made it abundantly clear that he wished to vote on this important issue.

In summary, the members of this House very much will support your final decision in this matter, but you have within your power, sir, the opportunity to review your decision, and your decision only, and to invite the member back to the House, since he was not named, and then convene the vote. I would ask, Mr Speaker, simply if you would consider that recommendation from the members of this House.

The Deputy Speaker: I have asked for help from the Clerk and, of course, he said it is my decision.

I don't like to evict a colleague from the House; it's not a pleasant duty. On the other hand, to be fair, to be fair to anyone, I think now the message would be abundantly clear that when a vote is conducted on a Thursday morning, you're allowed to stay outside of the House for the first vote. The doors are then opened after the vote. You can come in and vote on the second vote. We did that. So I will abandon this decision and will allow Mr Kormos to come back in.

LABOUR RELATIONS
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will now vote on Mrs Witmer's bill.

Mrs Witmer has moved second reading of Bill 76, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

All those in favour of the motion will please rise and remain standing until their names are called.

Ayes

Arnott, Brown, Callahan, Carr, Cunningham, Daigeler, Eddy, Harnick, Jackson, Mancini, Marland, Miclash, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), Poirier, Ramsay, Sola, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West), Witmer.

Nays

Abel, Bisson, Carter, Dadamo, Drainville, Farnan, Fletcher, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lessard, Malkowski, MacKinnon, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Rizzo, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), White, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 23; the nays 37.

The Deputy Speaker: The ayes are 23; the nays are 37. I declare the motion lost.

All matters relating to private members' business have been exhausted, and I will leave the chair until 1:30 of the clock.

The House recessed at 1219.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1331.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

NATIVE YOUTH SUICIDE

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): I rise today to bring to the attention of members of this Legislature the state of emergency that the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation has declared due to the significant rise in suicides and suicide attempts within their first nation community.

Suicides by northern native youth have reached alarming proportions. It is tearing at the social and cultural fabric of first nation communities. In the past year alone, 11 native youths have committed suicide within this nation's area of responsibility. During recent visits to the northern first nation communities in my riding, there were many concerns raised about the mental and emotional health of youth. Due to the characteristics of life in a northern community, young people are susceptible to boredom and restlessness, which robs them of their sense of being and belonging.

Grand Chief Bentley Chee Choo has made repeated urgent appeals to both the federal and provincial governments for cooperation to assist in ensuring appropriate opportunities to help young people develop into positive and productive members of their communities. To date, the required support and cooperation have not been forthcoming.

We need to go beyond simply treating the effects which these suicides are ravaging upon the community; we must find ways to cure the illness. Once again, I am calling on this government to respond immediately and in a positive and cooperative manner to the requests of Grand Chief Chee Choo and other first nation leaders and bring an end to this tragic epidemic.

ANTI-TOBACCO LEGISLATION

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Just last week, Dr Stan Hill, the past president of the Ontario Lung Association, reminded me that this government has not come forward with one of its promises. More than 120,000 children join the tobacco market each year in Canada, more than 40,000 in Ontario. Of all the 15-year-olds currently smoking cigarettes, tobacco use will kill eight times more than all car accidents, suicides, murders, AIDS and drug use combined.

Every month that the introduction of the promised anti-tobacco legislation is delayed, 3,000 children will join the tobacco market in Ontario. Most of these children will become addicted to tobacco products and about one third of these will die from their dependency. Some 13,000 Ontarians die annually due to tobacco-related illnesses. Over 30,000 have died since the government assumed office.

In 1991, the NDP government promised to deliver anti-tobacco legislation for Ontario. It was promised again by the Health minister and by the Treasurer in the 1991 budget to justify the large tobacco tax increase. Minister, the facts support anti-tobacco legislation.

As the member for London North, I strongly urge the government and the Minister of Health to quickly introduce anti-tobacco legislation before we lose more lives to this most unfortunate addiction.

I think we should all commend the Lung Association for Ontario for the good work it does and for the good advice it gives us as elected members.

LITERACY

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I would like to congratulate the Cambridge Reporter, the daily newspaper in my riding, which has sponsored a series of seminars to train teachers to use newspapers in the classroom as part of their literacy program.

Recently, 10 city elementary teachers participated in such a program, led by Jennifer Densure. All of them said afterwards that they would start using the newspaper as a tool to make classroom lessons relevant to topical situations.

Through this seminar, the teachers now envision further using the newspaper not only to help direct classroom discussion in social studies, geography and math classes but also to inform them about their community, about city services and parks and about the environment.

I am drawing attention to this project today for two reasons: It is Literacy Week. By giving a real-world application to students' newly acquired reading skills, it may help some students stay interested in reading and develop a reading habit. Secondly, this activity will make current events awareness and discussion a part of children's lives.

I'm sure all members of the House would want to join me in commending the daily Cambridge Reporter on this fine initiative.

CHILD CARE

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I rise today once again to bring to the attention of this Legislature the absurd priority-setting of the NDP government. The victims in this instance of ideological insanity are the children and parents of Ontario.

Nearly a year ago the day care sector was told that subsidies had been virtually frozen except for a very few specially targeted spaces. At that time, in fact on that very same day, an allocation of \$75 million was put aside for the conversion of child care centres from private ownership to non-profit, tax-supported spaces. This \$75 million brings not one new space for mothers and children in need in this province.

Municipality after municipality has passed resolutions disagreeing with the NDP policy of conversion. They see the waiting lists grow while available spaces in their communities go unused for lack of subsidies. Individual potentials continue to be unrealized. The Ministry of Community and Social Services' own documents state that access to service continues to be one of the most persistent problems in the children's service system, yet this NDP government continues to spend its very limited resources on conversion for conversion's sake—ideological insanity—rather than on the provision of much-needed subsidized child

care. This is simply an ineffective and unacceptable response to the needs of the children of this province.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME PROGRAM

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I rise today to remind the Minister of Community and Social Services of the ongoing crisis in the special services at home program in my community of Kitchener-Waterloo.

The Ontario government has cut back on the amount of relief for more than 30 families in Kitchener-Waterloo who care for their developmentally and/or physically disabled children at home. This has caused tremendous hardship for their families.

I would like to draw the minister's attention to one case which was recently reported on in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. Ms Deb Moskal, a single parent who is currently studying to become a social worker, is trying to raise her son Robert, who suffered a stroke after birth, is brain-damaged and cannot use the left side of his body.

Ms Moskal has been receiving support from the special services at home program to have a trained worker help care for Robert 20 hours a week. She has now been told that she will have her level of support reduced to only 15 hours a week. This will save the government \$2,000 this year, but this reduction will force her to reduce her course load at university and means she will have to be on welfare one more year because she has to delay her graduation. Welfare costs \$12,000.

When the NDP was in opposition it understood that home-based care is more humane and economical than life in an institution. I ask the minister to remember that humanity and provide the resources for this program.

MICHELLE WRIGHT

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I stand in the House today to congratulate a former constituent of my riding of Essex-Kent: Michelle Wright. This woman, born in Chatham and raised in Merlin, has achieved recognition for her singing and songwriting talents on a national level.

In September, at the Canadian Music Awards, Michelle Wright won the best single for "Take It Like a Man," best female vocalist, best backup group, best county video, as well as the celebrated Country Music Person of the Year.

Ms Wright, as anyone who watched the World Series will remember, sang the national anthem in Toronto, spurring the Blue Jays on to victory. She is a source of pride for the community of Merlin, for Kent county and for this country. I congratulate her excellence and wish her continued success in the future. She has made us all very proud in the rural community of Essex-Kent.

1340

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): The Minister of Municipal Affairs is announcing today that the NDP government is proceeding with legislation to give Metro Toronto the power to make decisions about taxation in the city of Toronto. As a member representing the city of Toronto, I am totally opposed to both market value assessment and this plan. For the NDP government to give Metro's plan

the green light with such unholy haste is not only irresponsible; it is obscene.

The minister can talk all he wants about municipal autonomy, but I can tell this government one thing: If you agree to let Metro council run roughshod over one of its largest member municipalities, then the people of Toronto will remember; we will remember a government that is willing to wash its hands and say that the destruction of Toronto is Metro's responsibility.

I ask the minister: Where are the economic impact studies of this plan? Where are the studies of its impact on jobs? Where are the studies of its impact on business? Where are the studies of its impact on the people of Metro Toronto?

This scheme affects the largest municipality in Canada and billions of dollars in taxation, with estimates coming out daily on the devastation it will cause the city of Toronto. Yet—can you believe it?—there are no studies of its impact. It is incredible that this minister and this government intend to rubber-stamp it anyway. If this NDP government truly cares about the city of Toronto, it must demand that real impact studies be done. This government must also agree to public hearings; 600,000 people in the city of Toronto demand nothing less.

ONTARIO HYDRO

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): Ontario Hydro has reached a new apex of economic disarray and turmoil. Currently, Hydro is saddled with a \$36-billion debt. When asked to account for this fiscal disaster, the NDP government's only response is to blame past administrations.

They blame past governments for the cost overruns at Darlington, but the fact remains that it was an NDP-Liberal coalition government that placed a moratorium on Darlington. They delayed the construction for two years. That moratorium, along with the anti-nuclear sentiment perpetrated by the New Democrats, is the problem that has led us to delays in the production of Darlington. This, in turn, brought about cost overruns.

Now that Hydro has a \$36-billion debt and customers are paying for it, the government must put aside its anti-nuclear ideology and bring Darlington and Bruce A generating stations into full capacity. Both of these plants are capable of producing energy at a very low cost level. Darlington will generate power at an average cost of 4.5 cents. Bruce A will generate power, after it's rehabilitated, at 2.8 cents. Both of these prices are well below the average price of 5 cents per kilowatt-hour.

FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): On behalf of the government of Ontario I would like to acknowledge the 1992 Fire Prevention and Public Education Award winners. In total, 20 groups and individuals have won the award for giving generously of their time, energy and resources to promote fire safety and prevention.

Leaders in the fire service across Ontario will tell you that fire prevention and public education are essential to saving lives and protecting property. That's why it's important to

recognize the organizations and people who have won the 1992 fire prevention awards. What they have done is extremely important. They have not only helped to save lives but have also worked to change the attitudes of people in this province towards fire. We're talking about people who care enough about their families, their friends and their neighbours to join with the government in working for the safety and wellbeing of others.

On behalf of the government, I extend to you, the 1992 fire prevention award winners, a heartfelt thank you for your actions and your help.

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd like to raise one small thing that was omitted in the statement. I'd like to recognize some of the recipients of the Solicitor General's awards. They're seated in the gallery right at present here.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I would like to draw the members' attention to the fact that for the past several weeks, a group of 24 very exceptional young people have served the members, this chamber and indeed the assembly. This is their last day as your pages. I would ask you to join me in congratulating them on doing an absolutely superb job on our behalf. Thank you for what you've done.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

SKILLS TRAINING FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): Ontario's industrial policy framework emphasizes the government's commitment to building sectoral partnerships between government and industry. Today I am pleased to announce a new sectoral agreement on training for an important sector of Ontario's economy, the auto parts manufacturing industry.

Les ententes sectorielles sont un moyen efficace de former les travailleuses et les travailleurs des divers secteurs de l'économie ontarienne. Elles demandent aux travailleurs et aux travailleuses et aux employeurs de se concerter pour trouver des solutions communes aux besoins de formation de l'ensemble de leur secteur.

Elles permettent aussi d'orienter l'économie vers le genre de partenariat, de liens et de réseaux dont parle le cadre pour la politique industrielle de l'Ontario.

Joint training strategies developed through sectoral agreements meet the precise needs of workers and employers and anticipate emerging skills requirements. They also facilitate mobility within the industry because workers have the opportunity to learn skills to industry-wide standards.

They also help increase private sector investment and human resource development through training, an important objective for the government in establishing the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board.

Several other industries are already beneficiaries of this joint labour-management approach to training. Workers are currently, for example, receiving training under sec-

toral partnerships in the electrical and electronics sector and in the plastics industry. Training will soon begin in the tourism and hospitality industry as a result of a traineeship program I announced in September.

Sectoral agreements are an attractive approach for government. These agreements place the responsibility for planning, developing and funding training programs with the people best placed to make joint decisions: the workers and employers in industry.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the government of Ontario, the government of Canada and the Automotive Parts Sectoral Training Council have signed a three-year agreement amounting to \$18 million for training in that sector. Ontario's total contribution over these three years will be \$6 million. The federal government and the sectoral training council will be contributing \$6 million each.

We cannot neglect training in the automotive industry, because it is a critical component of Ontario's economic health. Despite global restructuring in the industry and the trials of individual automakers, our province is the second-largest manufacturer of cars and trucks for the joint Canadian-US market.

The independent automotive parts industry is a significant player in this larger industry. It employs 44,000 Ontario workers and contributes \$14 billion to the Ontario economy each year.

Of the 350 independent auto parts firms operating in Ontario, most employ fewer than 20 workers. Individually, these firms have a limited capacity to mount training programs. Working together, they can achieve a great deal.

Training under the agreement is being jointly developed by workers and employers in the industry and will begin in January of next year. The program will address industry needs and be operated by representatives of the workers and employers through the Automotive Parts Sectoral Training Council.

The two co-chairs of the Automotive Parts Sectoral Training Council are with us today, and I would ask the Legislature to recognize Ms Carol Dickson from the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association and Mr Bruce Davidson from the Canadian Auto Workers. Seated with them are several others from the industry, and I'd like them to stand and be recognized.

1350

The training made available under this agreement will be available to 10,000 workers in the sector under the life of this agreement. It will raise the awareness level among workers of the nature and magnitude of the changes that are overtaking the auto parts industry. Technical and work organization skills will be stressed through training in four foundation areas: mathematics, communications, problem-solving and analytical skills, and computer usage.

This agreement is good news for the industry and for Ontario. It increases private sector investment in training and it strengthens codetermination between workers and employers in a key manufacturing industry.

I'm pleased to inform the Legislature today that we are currently negotiating new training agreements with workers

and employers in several other key industries, including steel, wood products and food processing.

These agreements represent important elements of the economic renewal agenda in Ontario.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I think it's important to inform the House today that the government has decided to introduce legislation later this month that will permit Metropolitan Toronto council to implement its interim tax package. It is clear that Metro council is responsible for its own deliberations and decisions. A duly elected council has reached a decision after considerable debate and compromise, and the province must respect that this is the responsibility of local councils.

Metro's tax package for 1993-97 is a compromise after almost 40 years of growing demands for reform of the system. For the tax assessment period 1998-2002 we expect Metro to develop a tax package that is fair and protects healthy urban centres.

Both Metro and the province understand that this is an interim plan only. Before the reassessment is updated in 1998, we expect that there will be a number of changes to the relationship among the province, municipalities and school boards regarding the funding of local services.

I want to emphasize that what the province is enabling Metro council to implement is not full market value assessment. The legislation will not give Metro council the power to implement full market value assessment in 1998. I'm going to repeat that, because it's absolutely essential to what the province is announcing today: The legislation will not give Metro council the power to implement full market value assessment in 1998. It will, however, allow Metro to seek provincial approval for any significant tax reforms as they are to be implemented.

We have heard the concerns of the city of Toronto and other municipalities, their concerns about their future, and we have heard similar concerns from other communities in Metro. During the next several years, the province will work with Metro and other communities to examine the full impact of any future property tax reform. The Ontario government will work with Metro on a full social and economic impact study of further property tax changes. As well, the province's work on tax reform will continue though the Fair Tax Commission, education finance reform and the disentanglement process.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I'm pleased to be able to rise today to comment on the Minister of Skills Development's announcement of the \$18-million sectoral agreement in regard to skills training with the automobile industry.

I would think all of us in this House would agree that this agreement today is timely. Of all the sectors in manufacturing in Ontario, I believe that right now automobile manufacturing and the parts industry is one of the ones we're most concerned about.

In fact, let's hope this is not too late. We know that we now see the major companies in North America in the

midst of restructuring their automobile assembly and parts manufacturing in North America. We're very concerned that this government is not doing enough in going to these companies and saying, "We want you to do business in Ontario."

This, I think, is a good sign, and I salute the minister on making this sectoral agreement with that industry. We've got to make sure the industry knows that we want it to stay here and that we care about it, because we want jobs in Ontario and good solid manufacturing jobs like this.

I would also ask the minister to move with great swiftness and great speed on the other sectoral agreements that he is starting to work on. The steel industry for sure, as he notes here, is one that is long overdue. The wood products industry, environmental services, food processing and manufacturing: We have to make sure that we can secure the manufacturing base of Ontario. It is very important.

Besides that, I would like to bring to the minister's attention the situation in Ontario now where we have over 600,000 people on the social assistance rolls. There are people who aren't involved in any of these main manufacturing sectors who find themselves underskilled and do not have the skills to obtain the jobs that are out there today. We've got to make sure we give them hope.

I think the minister is working on what he thinks might be the answer, and that is the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board project. We are not seeing that main initiative from this government yet. In fact, it's falling behind. I don't know if the wheels have come off this vehicle that he's trying to make for training, but we've got to get on with it. We've got to make sure we've got a strong training vehicle in Ontario.

As I've said before, I would ask the minister maybe to make an advisory group at first, because I think you're trying to build this vehicle, make it all comprehensive, and it's taking so long to get it off the ground that I'm worried about those people who are not being given attention right now.

I wish you would get on with all the different sectors and get on with OTAB and an advisory committee, and let's get on with skills training for the workers of Ontario.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East): In response to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister, you will know that MVA is a very important issue, not only in Metro but right across this province. I think your statement today has added more confusion than ever before by now saying that this is only an interim tax package and it's not full market value. I think this very controversial and emotional issue is creating more confusion. Now people in Ontario will really question the intention of the government of Ontario when it comes to market value assessment in other municipalities.

It's also interesting that back in 1991 the Minister of Revenue was supposed to be the minister responsible for market value, and it's now in the hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Is there some kind of a deal that was cooked up? I don't know.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Cooked up. Too many cooks in the kitchen.

Mr Grandmaitre: Cooked without an e. Cook without an e.

We haven't seen the legislation and I think the legislation is much more important than the message or the statement of the minister today, and I repeat, a very confusing statement.

The minister can rest assured that we will cooperate with the government, with all its confusion, and we'll try to straighten it out. The Liberal caucus is interested in participating in a reasoned debate through public hearings in a committee of this Legislature.

Again, I think the Minister of Municipal Affairs, through the eyes of the Minister of Revenue, is confusing a very, very emotional issue in Metro. While the Premier is away, this government has its problems with the Metro police force. Now it is creating more problems with Metro, and the Premier is away washing his hands of his responsibilities.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to stand in the House today and say that the independent automotive parts industry is a very significant player in the economy of this province, employing some 44,000 people and contributing \$14 billion to the Ontario economy.

I would also like to say thank you to the Automotive Parts Sectoral Training Council, especially Ms Dickson and Mr Davidson and all the other key negotiators in the work they've done in the coming to fruition of this very important first agreement, in my view, for sectoral training, which is so important to our province. I'd also like to say that it's extremely important that the private sector does become involved.

At this time I know the minister will join with me in thanking the federal government for its involvement once again, the provincial and the private sector. I mean, what more could be asked for? That's exactly how things should work.

1400

I will say that a lot of work had been done by the Premier's Council, and it's nice to see that after people have given so much of their time we do in fact respond to one of the very important recommendations on the sectoral training. But I will warn the minister that the Premier's Council, although it did make this recommendation, did talk about a bipartite board. The board under OTAB is extremely more complicated than that, and I think that during the hearings on the legislation we will have an opportunity to give our best advice in that regard to the government and to the minister. We need to do that.

In closing, the other thing I'd like to say is that in Bill 40, unfortunately, you should know that the auto parts will be affected by replacement worker provisions. The industry has invested millions in the development of this just-in-time delivery, and Bill 40 will threaten the viability of the automotive parts industry.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I wish to respond to the statement today that was made by the House leader indicating the NDP cabinet support for market value assessment.

I'm particularly distressed that there was no statement today from the Minister of Revenue. Let's be up front, let's be clear. If ever the people of this country, of this province and of the city are being fed up with politicians and saying: "Give us the facts. Tell us what's happening"—

This isn't about enabling legislation. It's not about enabling legislation, one government to another. This is market value assessment. It's a tough issue. It's a difficult one. It was difficult for us to deal with. It was difficult for the Liberals to deal with. It's been difficult for you to deal with. But at least be honest about what we're dealing with. It's market value assessment.

Secondly, my House leader asked you not to delay looking at this. I read your statement today and you say things like: In the future, five years from now, if there's another change, we will have "a social and economic impact study of future property tax changes," that we want to "examine the full impact on any future property tax reform."

You've known that this was coming down the pike every day you've been in office. Why haven't you for the last two years done an economic study on this, an impact study? Why haven't you, instead of treating market value assessment in isolation, looked at it, as other issues should be looked at, in conjunction with the whole combining of impacts that are coming down the pike? Why haven't you understood that the heart, the core, of our capital city, of this province, of this country, is being threatened? It is being threatened every day. Why haven't you done an impact study on these changes in conjunction with the other changes that are happening?

Why, for example, will you not live up to your campaign commitment to scrap the commercial concentration tax? Here's a tax that is taking \$100 million a year, more or less, right out of the city of Toronto—more, in fact, coming out with that tax than will be shifted from this market value assessment plan. You have an opportunity, if you had planned, if you had treated it seriously, if you'd been honest about what is happening, to do a full impact study on this great city of Toronto, on what's happening with the downtown core, the heart and soul of our province, and our country, really.

You could have done this if you had been honest and said: "This is about market value assessment. How does that fit in with all the other things are happening?" You should now be sending this out to hearings, as we asked you to do, right now, not waiting till after next week but right now, so we can hear from people who have not been heard from on this debate.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member's time has expired.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd like to ask for unanimous consent of the House to speak to Remembrance Day.

The Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent? Agreed.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): As a young boy, before the Second World War, I used to go with my father to the Remembrance Day parade. We would march along the streets and stand with others, six or seven deep, in front of the town's war memorial.

It was a sight to stir a young boy's heart. There was the chatter of snare drums, bouncing over the bass drums, and these martial airs made us onlookers stand a little bit taller, a little straighter, and they still do that today, over 50 years later.

At the appointed moment of silence, old men stood still, with glints of gold and silver on their chests, flashing in the November sun. A single trumpet then sounded to mourn the thousands who could not be present but who made being there possible for us.

This coming weekend we will once again celebrate Armistice Day in our own towns and villages. The pomp and circumstance of yesteryear we don't find too often these days, but one can't go back, and that itself is a grace.

Time has taken its toll on the veterans and each year they are fewer, but those who remain are still proud. They lack crispness in their step perhaps, but we don't notice that.

So this coming weekend, we honour our veterans from campaigns in the North Atlantic, northwest Europe, Italy, North Africa and the Pacific. We also honour those who gave their lives at Dieppe, Hong Kong, the Battle of Britain and the Normandy invasion. We also honour those who gave their lives in the First World War and in Korea. We honour those who have given their lives in peacekeeping actions.

Thousands never returned, but their contribution to the betterment of mankind can never be measured.

Mr Gilles E. Morin (Carleton East): I'd like to add a few words to the comments of my friend Gord. I believe I am the only Korean veteran in the House, and in June of this year I was invited by the Korean government to revisit our positions, to revisit some of the area where I had stayed for a period of nine months. This was in 1953; I was young then.

What struck me when I walked through the graveyard and looked at the stones, with the ages of 18, 19, 20, 21 and an oldie at 30, is how important it is to celebrate those young men and women who gave their lives to defend the principle of freedom, to respond immediately to the call of duty and to do so in a way that is extremely difficult to describe.

I served with the Royal 22nd Regiment. I served also with some colleagues from the Princess Pats, the Royal Canadian Regiment, the artillery. We were able among ourselves to create a real bond of friendship, and we were serving one cause. Recently, for the more than six months, the more than two years, we talked about unity, let me tell you that if only Canadians could follow the example given by our Canadian troops of what unity is all about, I believe

strongly that many of our problems would be eroded, would be gone, would be taken away.

Unfortunately, as the population ages, people forget so easily, not by intention, but forget to think of the people who did give their lives, who sacrificed their lives, who without any hesitation responded again to the call of duty.

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On behalf of my former colleagues from the armed forces, on behalf of Gord, who understands clearly what service is all about in the armed forces, I want to be sure that none of us in this House will hesitate, when you meet a veteran, to say thank you to him, because he risked his life and he did so with pride.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Every year at this time we wear poppies on our lapels. Every year we hold ceremonies to commemorate our heroes who fought to rid the world of tyranny. But every year fewer and fewer of those brave men and women are still with us at the ceremonies.

Remembrance Day comes and goes, and life continues. For those of us who are old enough to have memories of the world wars and the Korean conflict, the pain and pride endure. Having grown up in England, I have searing memories of the air raid bombing of Liverpool. I have only a child's remembrance of my father, who never returned from the theatre of war, but happily, I also have a husband and relatives who proudly served their countries and are still with us today.

For younger people, though, the horror of war comes alive only from stories, history lessons, movies and books. It is harder for them to understand the significance of Remembrance Day. We must never forget that history is about living; it is for the living. Remembrance Day is about keeping alive the memories of war for the lessons they teach us, and to honour our forefathers and mothers, whose sacrifice in war is part of our heritage.

When we pin that poppy on our lapel, we must remember that it symbolizes the blood of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice. We must remember that some communities lost almost all their young men in battle. Virtually every Canadian town has a memorial to its war dead. Remember too that Canada's soldiers risked their own lives to ensure that we, their children, would live in freedom. They brought us the peace that has blessed the western world through most of our lifetimes.

If you have the opportunity to visit Flanders fields, where the acres and acres of crosses bring home the immensity of the loss of life in the world wars, you could read the moving poem, *In Flanders Fields*, by Canadian John McCrea, one of our heroes who died in the First World War. It is a simple yet powerful message for us all, and as such I would like to read his poem.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 the torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

As McCrae's poem says, if the spirits of those who perished in war are to rest in peace, we must keep their memory and their cause alive. Even when all the veterans of the world wars and the Korean conflict have passed on to a greater existence with God, we must continue to hold Remembrance Day services to commemorate them and their struggle for peace and freedom, for wars continue to cause grievous pain and suffering today in less fortunate parts of the world. The loss of loved ones, starvation, sickness, bombing raids, mortar fire, wholesale destruction of communities, death camps, prisoner-of-war camps—in too many places, these horrors are still part of the routine of daily living. We have a responsibility to help these areas achieve the peace that has blessed our lives.

Today there are more than 2,000 Canadian troops helping to bring peace to troubled areas of the world such as Bosnia, Cyprus and Somalia. In the tradition of the soldiers who served in the world wars, they are committed to ending oppression peacefully. They are dedicated to achieving peace and freedom, even if it costs them their lives. These peacekeepers of today connect us with the peacekeepers of our past.

When we commemorate those who served in earlier battles, we also recognize Canada's modern defenders of the peace. Like our police forces and fire forces who risk their lives to save ours, we owe them all our deepest gratitude and respect.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I would invite all members, and indeed our visitors in the galleries, to stand for a moment of silent, thoughtful, prayerful reflection.

The House observed a moment's silence.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): Mr Speaker, today we had a very significant financial report released showing our first six months' financial picture in the province. I would be asking the House for unanimous consent for the Treasurer to make a statement on these numbers and give the opposition an opportunity to comment on them. I wonder if I might move unanimous consent.

The Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the Treasurer to make a statement? Agreed. Treasurer?

ECONOMIC POLICY

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I'm quite happy to make a statement as long as you feel it's not setting a precedent, since it's never been done before. But I'm quite prepared to make a statement.

The second-quarter Ontario finances released today indicate a \$595-million decline in expected revenue for the province for the year, resulting largely from decreases in

provincial retail sales tax and personal income tax receipts. Although our expenditures are well on track, the revenue outlook has put a lot of pressure on our fiscal target, and we now have to do everything possible to find additional savings to help us meet our budget plan.

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The revenue losses are a result of the slower-than-expected economic recovery documented in the Ontario Economic Outlook released earlier and preliminary information recently received from the federal government on personal income tax collections.

The revenue problem also affects other Canadian jurisdictions. We are taking immediate steps to reduce spending further in order to make up these losses. We made a commitment in our budget to reduce spending and we have kept that commitment. The Ontario Finances reports expenditure reductions of \$355 million to date this year.

These savings are in addition to those reported in the 1992 budget. At that time, savings were identified from improved productivity and efficiency measures in government operations, including the commitment to reduce the size of the public service by at least 2,500 over the next two years.

Significant savings were also realized from other program reviews. This past year the program review process we undertook was very successful. It helped us reduce growth in spending by \$4 for every \$1 we raised in taxes, while still meeting our priorities to create jobs, preserve essential services and control the deficit. That process is an ongoing one. We have a number of very tough decisions to make, both this year and in the coming years.

We are imposing restrictions on external hiring and further restrictions on spending, effective immediately. All ministries have been directed to review their spending and identify further savings to meet the budget plan.

Dealing with this revenue loss is one of the major fiscal challenges this government faces. We are redoubling our efforts to contain costs and reduce spending so that we can meet our medium-term fiscal plan and our priorities for the future.

Thank you for this opportunity, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I take it the member for Scarborough-Agincourt would like to respond. Because what was given was unanimous consent for the Treasurer to make a statement, we would require unanimous consent for responses. Agreed? Agreed.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): Actually I think Hansard might record that I said unanimous consent for a statement and for the opposition to respond, but I am pleased to respond. I'll assume we have five minutes, Mr Speaker, each of the opposition parties. The reason I was anxious is that this is very bad news. I think it's tangible evidence that the Rae government's economic plans are not working. We see revenue dropping on every front. This is very serious for the people of the province of Ontario: personal income tax revenue dropping, corporate tax revenue dropping, sales tax revenue dropping, employer health tax revenue dropping.

In our opinion, this is not all of the bad news. In our opinion, there is more bad news to come. As we look at the revenue numbers, we think the Treasurer will finally have to acknowledge that the \$1.2 billion he has in here as revenue from the federal government is unrealistic. The federal government has said, "You're not going to get all of that," and we should not continue to show that.

We also see here that the government has identified an additional \$550 million of expenditures. The way they've been able to maintain the \$9.9-billion deficit is by putting a fudged number in there. The only way one could see those sorts of reductions—and I hope the Treasurer will have an opportunity to comment on this—is to once again do exactly what they did last year and further delay capital. We can see the beginning of that. They've already delayed about \$125-million worth of capital.

All of the caucus will recall that when the Treasurer got up with his job program, the major part of it was capital: "We are going to create jobs through capital." We now see significantly less money being spent on capital this year than last year. We've said this all along. You've got to come clean with the people of the province. There are fewer jobs here in construction as a result of this budget.

Our first comment—I assume I have five minutes—is bad news for the people of Ontario. The Rae economic plans are not working. Second, we do not believe these will be the final numbers. We are convinced you will not get that money from fiscal stabilization. We continue to demand evidence that you have some expectation of it; we don't get it from you.

The federal numbers on corporate tax revenue are down. I believe it's 25%, 27%. The Treasurer continues to plan for corporate tax revenue growth.

The last thing I'd like to say is that the way we will get ourselves out of this economic mess is to get the economy going. Every single one of Premier Rae's economic renewal plans is on the rocks. It is more than a coincidence that later today we will vote on final reading of Bill 40. You can say what you want, there is nobody in this province who does not believe that is going to cost jobs. The number of jobs is subject to debate, but that will cost jobs. So that's not working.

The second thing the Premier promised long ago was training. We have not seen the training programs the Premier promised.

The third thing the Premier promised was his Ontario investment fund. That's on the rocks. Where is it?

The fourth thing the Premier promised was an active worker ownership program. That bill has been passed, but the people who were supposed to participate in it said they don't want to be any part of it.

Mr Speaker, when you ask why we are continually on the government, it's because we say, "Come forward with the economic plan the Premier promised a year ago." He hasn't brought that forward.

For the people of the province of Ontario, we see bad news, and only time will tell. In our opinion, this is not an accurate reflection of the numbers. The Treasurer will choose to disagree with us. We do not think you are going to get more than a fraction of the fiscal stabilization money.

The teachers' pension money, \$500 million, was due on January 1. The Treasurer delayed it for three months. Do you know what that's going to cost the taxpayers of the province of Ontario? At least \$3 million. For what reason? For no other reason than the optics of Premier Rae, who is now winging his way to Japan, being able to say that he has a deficit below \$10 billion. The taxpayers of this province are going to pay out of their pockets \$3 million in extra interest payments just to delay that payment that was due on January 1 to April 1.

Every time people come to the Legislature and say, "Listen, we want help from the government," and you say you don't have it, I will point out that Premier Rae insisted on spending an extra \$3 million on interest payments purely for the optics. No wonder the public is cynical.

To wrap up, I appreciate the Treasurer giving the statement today. As I say, only time will tell who has the accurate numbers. The economy of this province continues to flounder, and the plans the Premier promised to get the economy going again, which we are anxiously awaiting, haven't been brought forward. So we will continue to press the government for that, we'll continue to press the government to come forward with the real financial picture and we'll continue to press the government to get this very difficult economy turned around.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): It is certainly discouraging, I'm sure, for many Ontarians to look at this particular second-quarter report. This just proves once again exactly how wrong the Treasurer has been and continues to be.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Spot on.

Mr Stockwell: The spot-on quote this Treasurer offered this House some months ago is a passing joke now; spot on in his revenues and spot on in his expenditures. Mr Treasurer, this is another example of just how bad your revenue projections are and just how badly your expenditure projections have worked out.

It certainly is discouraging to see the personal income tax side down considerably, the retail sales tax side down considerably, the corporate tax down and the employer health tax down. When these four significant players for revenues for government constantly are being reduced, it only means one thing: (a) there is no consumer confidence out there, and (b) if there is no consumer confidence out there, it's because so many people are losing their jobs. They're losing their jobs and they don't spend any money.

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There are no corporations to tax, and as we fall back to the Agenda for People, this government's claim that it taxed the fat corporate people who have been avoiding tax is another example of exactly how far off base this government was. Every time we receive a fiscal forecast from this Treasurer, all it proves is how totally inept he is at controlling or projecting the economy of this province.

It's not just the \$9.9-billion deficit, a number that they simply fabricated one day in the corner office. This is the government that does budgeting by setting the deficit and then figuring out what its revenues should be, and that's

the scariest part of all. They insist on pretending that the deficit of this province is still at \$9.9 billion.

Mr Treasurer, who do you think is honestly going to believe the figures that you've put forward today? Maybe yourself, maybe your cabinet and maybe your caucus; beyond that, sir, no one. No one believes you're going to get the \$1.2 billion this year from the federal government; no one believes it. No one believes, besides of course the Minister of Health, who probably would believe anything, that you're going to sell properties or holdings for a total of \$1.2 billion this year. That accumulates to \$2.4 billion that you will not receive.

You've now told us today that you are \$550 million short and that in the next six months, on a partial budget year, you are going to reduce the expenditures of this province by \$550 million. Mr Treasurer, I don't believe you can do it, I don't believe the private sector believes you can do it and I don't think there are very many people in this province who think you can do it. I'll tell the Treasurer why they don't believe him. They don't believe him because he made the same boast last year, and last year the deficit came in significantly higher than what he predicted it to be. It came in significantly higher because you didn't make the cuts that you claim you made.

The simple fact is we're going through the same charade this year that we went through last year. I would have thought by now, for the sake of the unemployed, for the sake of the people on welfare, for the sake of the people who are losing their jobs, that you would have figured out that that trick doesn't work, that you would have put in place programs to get the people back to work.

The most insulting part of this second-quarter interim statement is that the capital works program that this government stood up and defended every day in this House, the capital works program that it claimed was going to jump-start this economy, isn't even being spent. There was \$500 million attributed to this account, and so far this year they've spent \$136 million. It doesn't exist.

The Jobs Ontario fund is a figment of the Treasurer's imagination. The sad reality is that there is nothing worse than people who have no hope, but what you're doing, Mr Treasurer, is building them up with false hopes and then bursting the bubble. Jobs Ontario doesn't exist.

I've got a few points to make, Mr Speaker. It may take a little while.

The Speaker: No. Would the member for Etobicoke West please take his seat for a moment.

There was an agreement and, while there isn't a precise time that's put on the clock, I would ask that members be reasonable with respect to the amount of time used. I kept track of the time used by the Treasurer as well as your colleague from Scarborough-Agincourt. I'd ask the member for Etobicoke West to respect that tradition.

Mr Stockwell: I didn't hear that five-minute motion; I only heard unanimous consent to respond. As far as I'm concerned, we have till 6 o'clock.

The Speaker: Would the member for Etobicoke West take his seat. As much as we all may enjoy hearing from the member for Etobicoke West, he does not have till 6

o'clock to address his comments to the Treasurer. I ask him to respect what his colleague, and in fact the Treasurer himself, have already done. Could he take another few moments to complete his remarks?

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Are you ruling that there was unanimous consent for five minutes for each of the parties? There was no such agreement. The Treasurer stood up and asked for unanimous consent. I believe we can get Instant Hansard if you want it. The Treasurer stood up and asked for unanimous consent to make his statement.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Substance Abuse Strategy): He did not.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Eves: Somebody—Mr Phillips, I believe—stood up and asked for unanimous consent for the Treasurer to make his statement. The Treasurer and everybody in the House accepted it. Then the member for the Liberal Party stood up and started to respond to the Treasurer's statement. There was never a five-minute time limit put up on that clock for the Treasurer to speak; there was never a five-minute time limit put up on that clock for the Liberal Party to answer. There was never a five-minute limit put up, and that has never been agreed to. What has been agreed to, with all due respect, sir, is unanimous consent for the Treasurer to make a statement and unanimous consent for each of the opposition parties to respond, with no time limits. That is what has been unanimously agreed to.

The Speaker: The member for Parry Sound is absolutely correct. All I was drawing to the attention of the member for Etobicoke West was the fact that traditionally in our House, when there has been unanimous consent for a statement to be made and for there to be responses, and that to occur outside the normal time allotted, there has been, it seems, a general agreement not to abuse the practice or abuse the opportunity. The member for Scarborough-Agincourt quite properly kept his remarks within a reasonable length of time. Indeed, I'm now expecting, as I think the House would expect, that the member for Etobicoke West, who has been recognized to make a few comments, would similarly offer a few comments and not abuse the opportunity to respond.

Mr Stockwell: I don't intend to abuse the opportunity of responding at all. I just want to get on record some of the concerns that I have with this second-quarter expenditure. As it was fitting just yesterday that I be allowed five full minutes to talk about labour legislation, I think it would be fitting today that I give a very clear and distinct overview of the situation that this province is in. That may take some time.

I was speaking about the Jobs Ontario fund. The Jobs Ontario fund was set up through capital accounts that were in fact taken from previous capital accounts and put into a slush fund. The capital expenditure of this government was never, ever increased. They took money from capital accounts, on-line budgets, and put it into the Jobs Ontario fund.

A perfect example is Transportation. The Transportation budget was reduced by capital expenditures and

moved over to the Jobs Ontario fund. This was an account that was set up to help get Ontarians back to work, but not one new dollar was appropriated. To add insult to injury to the people of this province looking for work, they moved the money from line accounts to the Jobs Ontario account, claiming it was going to create work, and then they didn't even spend the money in the Jobs Ontario account.

The savings that this government claims it made through efficiencies in its budget came from the Jobs Ontario fund that it claimed was going to put Ontarians back to work. That is a shell game, and a deceitful shell game, that is only being used to prop up the hopes of people looking for work, simply to dash them again for not spending the money.

Our staff today spoke with the federal government to ask about the \$1.2-billion budget stabilization fund. This government has applied for \$1.2 billion. The minister's office was very clear. I can't understand why this government doesn't just pick up the phone and get the same answers that we get when we ask the question about the stabilization fund. The \$1.2 billion will not be transferred for certain this year, if ever, so it's a guarantee that they will not be getting their money. If we assume the \$9.9 billion is accurate and the \$1.2 billion is not coming from the federal government, suddenly their \$10-billion deficit now becomes \$11.1 billion.

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The Speaker: To the member for Etobicoke West, the member should know that the original statement by the Treasurer was approximately six minutes. His colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt utilized approximately seven minutes in his reply and the member for Etobicoke West has now utilized in excess of seven minutes. I would allow him another 30 seconds just to wrap up his comments and then we can get on with question period.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: There was no amount of time allotted to each party.

The Speaker: The member has 30 seconds to complete his remarks.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): This is a point of order.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, this is a point of order. Do I have 30 seconds for my point of order?

The Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr Stockwell: My point of order, Mr Speaker, is: There was no allotment of time set up for the government to make its statement, for the Liberal Party to respond to that statement, nor to this party to respond to the statement by the Treasurer.

Mr Speaker, I'm asking you on a point of order: Why is it that you're now arbitrarily setting a time as to how long this party may take in responding to a statement? It wasn't spoken to in unanimous consent and you—

The Speaker: To the member for Etobicoke West, the member will know that had the statement by the Treasurer been included during the time for ministers' statements, his response would have had to be included within the five

minutes, as prescribed by the standing orders. The members obviously have had an additional advantage.

I have pointed out to the member that it would be inappropriate for him to abuse this opportunity. I would ask him to consider the traditions of this House and the fact that an offer was given to have a statement made and for a response from the other side. When we have statements during ministers' statements, the maximum time allotted is five minutes. I ask the member to not abuse the privilege that has been granted this afternoon, to wind up his remarks in the next few seconds so we can get on with the business at hand.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, I don't believe I'm abusing the privileges of this House. It wasn't a privilege offered by anyone but this House and it's not a privilege that can be revoked by anyone but this House. The action that was taken was unanimous consent to speak. There wasn't a time limit put on it, so the only way it may be revoked is by the House. I have the floor. It may not be revoked at this time.

The Speaker: No. The member for Etobicoke West is attempting to debate a ruling I've made. I am asking the member that if he wishes to conclude his remarks in the next few seconds, to do so. Otherwise, we will begin the next item of our routine proceedings. He has a few seconds to conclude his remarks.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, I am not debating this ruling you're making; I just don't know where the power lies that you can do what you're doing. That is what I'm asking, Mr Speaker.

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): He's the Speaker.

Mr Stockwell: I know you're the Speaker. I am fully aware you're the Speaker. The House gave unanimous consent to respond, with no time limits. Members may not be cut off.

The Speaker: The member must take his seat. It is time for oral questions and the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Stockwell: Point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, all I can ask you, as I've asked in the past—and I notice you've started question period now. It's a point of personal privilege, Mr Speaker. I ask that you respond with your ruling in writing once again so I can be very clear about what you're ruling on and where the precedent comes from.

The Speaker: I realize the member is—I would invite the member to my office immediately following question period if he would like some explanation about the rules.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Treasurer. We have now received the latest report card on the government's economic policies with the release of the second-quarter finances. Sadly for the province, the grade is an F. Equally distressing is that

the Premier decided to jet out of the country, rather than face the reality that his plans for economic renewal are not working.

Government revenues are \$600 million less than what you anticipated. There are fewer people employed. As a result, there is less income tax and less retail sales tax being paid. The companies that are still in business in this province aren't making much money, so they're not paying corporate income tax.

Treasurer, do you at least now admit that your government's economic policies are a disaster and that for Bob Rae's Ontario nothing is working, and that is particularly true for the 555,000 people who are unemployed?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The leader of the official opposition has such an incredibly negative and opposition mindset. She doesn't seem to—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: I'm trying not to be partisan, Mr Speaker.

The leader of the official opposition certainly has every right and obligation to criticize the policies of this government. That's her job, for which she is very well paid. But I think it would serve her better and the province of Ontario better if she'd put Ontario's problems in somewhat of a perspective.

Ontario is not alone in having its problems on revenues. The federal government itself is going to have enormous difficulty this year meeting any of its targets. Other provinces are going to have difficulty meeting their targets. Other jurisdictions with similar economies to ours south of us in the United States are going to have difficulty meeting their targets.

This government, for the first time, has put in place some long-term economic strategies that are going to serve the province very well in the future, and perhaps in the supplementary she will ask me to detail some of those, because I'm quite happy to do so.

Mrs McLeod: I'm asking the Treasurer to simply respond to the very clear evidence that he's presented to us in his second quarter statement today. Your government's revenues are more than \$500 million less than you predicted in your April budget. There are 555,000 people without jobs. The number of people who are out of work and receiving welfare has increased by 20% in the last year. A plant closes every three days.

These may just seem to be numbers that you've presented in this second quarter report, but behind the numbers there are these very real people. All you do in this government in response to those real people is to give lipservice to economic renewal, while you continue to play political games with your budget numbers.

Why don't you acknowledge that you are in a financial mess and that the only way out of it is to go back to the drawing-board and devise some workable economic renewal plans?

Hon Mr Laughren: It's true that our revenues are down this year, as we detailed. We're not trying to hide

anything. It was detailed in Ontario Finances for the second quarter, released today, but that's certainly not a surprise to anyone, given the fact that the recession has been more prolonged and deeper than anybody thought it was going to be. As a member of the Liberal caucus, she knows that projections in this world are not always spot on. She knows that full well. She was a member of a government that had similar difficulties, as a matter of fact.

To address the problem about the economic policies of this government, we have moved away from the tradition in this province of simply putting all money into make-work projects that were here today and gone tomorrow and created only short-term projects. We have said we understand that the problems in this economy are long-term and structural in nature, as they are in other jurisdictions. That's why we have put an enormous amount of effort into training and adjustment.

Just one example: We are spending \$930 million this year in beefed-up apprenticeship programs, the most that's ever been spent in the history of the province on apprenticeship programs. We're proud of that and that's a long-term structural strategy to address the long-term structural problems in the economy.

Mrs McLeod: Treasurer, you say you're not trying to hide anything from the people of Ontario, but it's quite apparent with these second-quarter numbers that your budget predictions were wrong. I ask you to cast your mind back, because we told you when you brought out your budget figures that your predictions were wrong, and we told you exactly why you were wrong.

I tell you today that you are going to be wrong again at the end of this year. You are counting on \$1.2 billion of fiscal stabilization money, and you know you're only going to get a fraction of that. You still claim you're going to raise another \$500 million by selling crown assets to your own land corporation. Treasurer, these fiscal tricks will only fool people for so long. By the end of this fiscal year, you're going to have to tell Ontarians what your government's and this province's real financial situation is. Why keep everybody waiting for another six months? Why not tell the people of this province now what the real financial situation is?

Hon Mr Laughren: That's precisely what the second-quarter Ontario Finances is doing. It's telling the people of this province that our revenues are down substantially. We understand that. We said in our budget on April 30 of this year that we were going to find in-year savings, expenditure savings, of \$400 million across the various ministries. We've already achieved \$355 million of that. On top of that, we imposed a 1% reduction in spending by all ministries.

We have done an extremely good job in managing the expenditures of this province. I'm going to tell you something else: Day after day, you and your colleagues and the members of the Conservative caucus are on their feet telling us that the deficit's too high, that we're not creating enough jobs, and the next day you're on your feet telling us we should be spending more money on program after program after program. Would you get your message straight, please?

The Speaker: New question.

Mrs McLeod: Mr Speaker, there are times when the frustration of being on the opposition side of the House and not being able to respond to statements which the Treasurer makes is beyond belief. Treasurer, I would defy you to find a situation in which we have called for you to manage the finances appropriately one day and called for you to increase spending the next.

My second question is for the Minister of Labour.

Hon Mr Laughren: May I respond to that question?

Mrs McLeod: Only if I'm given equal time, Treasurer.

The Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the Treasurer to respond?

Would the leader place her question, please.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My second question is for the Minister of Labour. Today the Premier leaves the province for 16 days. By the time he returns, more than 8,700 people in Ontario will lose their jobs, five more plants will close down and Ontario will have a new labour law.

Since day one, this government has consistently ignored our concerns and the concerns of business and of ordinary Ontarians about the effect this legislation will have on the province's economy and on jobs, and so I say to the minister one last time, will you share with the people of Ontario the information you must now surely have about how many jobs, how many businesses, how much investment this bill is going to cost Ontario?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I am pleased to respond to the question from the leader of the official opposition. I don't know where she's getting her figures on the numbers that will be gone—she may have a crystal ball; I'm not sure—or how many will lose their jobs. What we are sure of is that we have to change the climate in Ontario; that we have to start using, for the first time effectively, workers in this province and their abilities as part of the decision-making process and as part of the ability to make sure that we can compete in today's world.

Mrs McLeod: The question was what studies the minister has to simply show the impact this legislation will have before he rams it through this House today. We've been calling for a proper impact study ever since the government introduced this ill-conceived bill, and the government has simply ignored us.

More than two thirds of Ontarians have said they want the government to do a proper study of the impact this bill will have on jobs, and the government has ignored them.

Business representatives from across the province have said the bill will cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and will drive billions of dollars in investment out of this province, and the minister totally dismisses business too.

Minister, do you think that two thirds of Ontarians are simply being unreasonable when they ask for a job impact study? Do you think that the business people of Ontario are simply lying when they tell you that Bill 40 will cost this province hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in investment?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I have difficulty in knowing how the leader of the official opposition can also accept the hundreds of thousands of jobs figure she's using, based on a survey that was not an actual survey; it was an opinion survey that included questions that are not part of the bill. So I don't know how you come up with the figures you're coming up with.

Mrs McLeod: Minister, perhaps not surprisingly, you've continued to refuse to respond to the question that's being asked. You refuse to hear what we've been telling you; you refuse to hear what business has been telling you; you refuse to hear what ordinary citizens are telling you: that no ideology is worth risking jobs, investment and the competitiveness of this province.

I have said that given the chance, I will repeal any provision of this bill that is driving jobs from this province. You are in government now. I know that you intend to ram this bill into law today. But if in six months or a year from now it is clearly costing jobs and investment, will you make the same commitment that I have made? Will you revisit this bill and make changes that might be required to prevent the loss of even more jobs and more investment in Ontario?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: When the leader of the official opposition talks about provisions of the bill, I'm not sure that she and I would begin to agree what provisions of the bill were causing problems, if indeed they were. I want to tell the leader of the official opposition that the kind of verbal campaign she is conducting and the comments she's making are more of a threat to jobs in the province of Ontario than anything that's in Bill 40.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Treasurer. I'd like to go over your fiscal fantasy statement today, Mr Treasurer, on the second quarter financial statement. You're projecting \$1.2 billion from the feds. This morning Mr Mazankowski's office confirmed to us, guaranteed 100%, that you will not get one cent. Mr Mazankowski has also told you this, that in this fiscal year, guaranteed, you will not get one cent. Yet you put it into your projections for the final six months of this year.

In addition, you are projecting a further \$1.2 billion in sale of assets. Six months ago, you said you would sell them and you would get \$1.2 billion; six months later, you haven't got 10 cents. Yet what you say here is that in the next six months you're going to do so much better, you're going to sell them all.

The final chapter in Floyd's fantasy is \$550 million dollars worth of unspecified reductions, which is about \$1.2 billion, annualized over a full year of reductions. You don't know how you're going to get them, you don't know where you're going to get them and you don't know when. Meanwhile, the ministers you plan to get them from are promising all their groups that 100% of the money will flow.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the leader place the question, please.

Mr Harris: Since the Speaker, who's been so consistent with his rulings today, totally ignoring the standing

orders—Treasurer, might I by way of a question ask you to come clean: Would you not agree with me today that the deficit is in excess of \$12 billion?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The leader of the third party should know that my fantasies have nothing to do with asset sales or fiscal stabilization.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): What are they?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): Ah, Steve, you are so spontaneous.

Mr Mahoney: Come clean. I want to know. Is that on television, Floyd?

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: The leader of the third party, and the member for Mississauga West, with his childish rantings today, said that they've been told categorically that the Minister of Finance had said that Ontario was not going to get its \$1.2-billion stabilization fund, which the federal government undeniably owes the people of the province of Ontario. I find that very hard to believe, because I believe Mr Mazankowski is an honourable man and would tell me, as the Treasurer of this province, that fact before he would let it be known to anybody else, if indeed he really was going to behave in such an unfair fashion to the people of the province of Ontario.

1500

Mr Mahoney: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The Treasurer just said that the member for Mississauga West made some childish remarks. I think he was referring to another riding, and I would like him to correct that.

Hon Mr Laughren: I apologize, Mr Speaker. I certainly meant that the member for Mississauga West was not doing any childish rantings today. It was the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would like the Treasurer to outline exactly what he meant by that comment, because I take offence. What are you talking about, Mr Treasurer?

The Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr Harris: The House leader for the New Democratic Party says, "Watch the tape." I think the Treasurer, if he watches the tape of my question, will find that I said that Mr Mazankowski's office said you will not get one cent in this fiscal year. You say you will get \$1.2 billion in this fiscal year. Mr Mazankowski, his office, the federal Treasury officials have told you that if you get anything, it will not be one cent in this year. You know that, I know that, and you have purposely put something in here that is untrue.

By way of supplementary, I suggest that this Treasurer is out of touch with the economic realities of Ontario. Bookkeeping like we have seen here would get you thrown out of a job in the private sector and would probably have you charged. The numbers don't add up.

Treasurer, how many hospital beds are you going to close? How many kids won't have classroom space? How many more families won't have access to day care to make

up for the missing millions and millions of dollars in this false statement you released today?

Hon Mr Laughren: Mr Speaker, I want to make it perfectly clear, because the leader of the third party has said that what's in Ontario Finances is untrue, that I find it strange that the Speaker would allow him to get away with that untruth in itself. However, that ruling is your decision, not mine.

I would say this: At no point has the federal government, its officials, or the minister indicated to me that we will not get \$1.2 billion this year. I've said always that I've considered Mr Mazankowski to be an honourable member, an honourable minister, and I find it very strange that he would tell the leader of the third party, despite their ideological affinity, something he has not said to me. I just don't believe the member of the third party.

Mr Harris: The difference is that I asked him and you haven't. That's the responsible thing to do as the Treasurer of the province of Ontario.

Clearly this statement demonstrates that you've lost the fight against the recession, which is the fight you picked. You said, "We're going to fight the recession." Now we know as well that you've lost the fight against the deficit, which is the fight Bob Rae ran away from. As of 6 pm today, when you pass your Bill 40—thanks to the fact that the Speaker didn't uphold the standing orders—you will have lost the fight for jobs. No wonder the Premier wanted to get out of the country today; no small coincidence.

Treasurer, Deputy Premier, later today I will be introducing a bill to repeal Bill 40. This, if passed, and if it's passed immediately, could be the start of recovery for the province. It could be the turning point, Mr Deputy Premier. I ask you today, will you support this bill? Will you join with me in my office later today to go over an implementation plan for New Directions so that together, you and I could put this province back to work?

Hon Mr Laughren: That is truly a scary proposal. No, I will not meet with him in his office later this afternoon. I'm very much aware of what his proposals would be. It would be one list of anti-labour legislation after another, and that's not where this government's coming from.

Further, if the leader of the third party is right—if he is, and I've no reason to believe this—and if the federal government decides to renege on its obligation to this province on the \$1.2-billion fiscal stabilization plan, it will have a lot more to say about his federal Tory friends than it does about the budgetary policy of this government.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is to the Solicitor General. I want to say that we're encouraged to see that the minister will meet next Wednesday with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association to try to resolve the conflict between the association and the government.

The Metro Toronto Police have stated several times that your regulatory proposal to require officers to file reports each time they draw their weapons in public is the straw that broke the camel's back. Given that the police have identified that one regulation as a key issue in the

conflict, and given that you told the media that the Premier has authorized you to resolve this issue "however you see fit," will you tell the House whether at next week's meeting you're prepared to consider revising or rescinding this controversial regulation?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I have been engaged in very meaningful discussions with the PAO, the Police Association of Ontario. I have now obtained agreement from the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association to join us at that table next Wednesday for fruitful discussions. I believe this substantially increases the opportunity to find a resolution that will bring this current impasse to an end. But I don't believe it would be appropriate for me to be trying to respond or to enter into discussions that perhaps more properly belong at that table next Wednesday.

Mr Runciman: Clearly, the Solicitor General remains committed to seeing this regulation come into force. There's a reason for that, and we believe it's a fact that this minister and many of his confrères in the government simply don't understand the frustrations and the pressures that especially Metro police officers have to face and feel on a daily basis. He apparently can never understand their concerns.

What I would like him to commit himself to doing today is going on patrol at least once or twice with Metro officers for an evening or two. This should not be a media event. He should let the Metro association choose the areas where he can accompany them, and he should try to do it before next Wednesday's meeting.

In 1988 the Ontario NDP reaffirmed a policy which states that "Regulations be revised to prevent the arming of police on routine patrols." That's right. It's in the NDP policy book. The NDP doesn't want officers to carry guns while on routine patrols. That's a policy of your party, Minister.

Will the minister tell the House today whether this policy is still one his party and his government support, and will he tell us whether he intends to at some point bring forward this policy?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I can't respond on behalf of the party. I can respond on behalf of the government and on behalf of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, which I represent.

Police officers in this province do have lethal force as part of their mechanisms to deal with circumstances that require it. I believe that is quite appropriate. They are armed, and in circumstances where it is appropriate to do so, they should in fact use those weapons.

In addition to that, they have less-than-lethal weapons at their disposal, and they would apply those in those circumstances that dictate those. Those judgement calls are made by professional men and women in our service, and I believe they do it appropriately. If there is some suggestion by some that these officers should be on patrol without such weaponry, I for one would not suggest that circumstance.

1510

Mr Runciman: It's difficult to know what this minister's saying most of the time when he stands up and responds to questions. I attempt to ask direct questions, but we certainly do not get direct answers.

The Solicitor General must realize that his proposed regulation to require officers to file reports each time they

draw their weapons is just as unnecessary as the ludicrous policy of his party calling for no guns for officers on routine patrols. The Solicitor General has said repeatedly: "The reports on unholstering of weapons will not be used against police officers. However, the government has conceded that such reports can be subpoenaed as evidence against the officers."

Constable Craig Bromell of 51st division in Toronto is quoted in today's press saying, "As soon as someone is involved in a shooting, the special investigations unit is going to go back and look at these reports.... To a citizen, the officer comes across as looking...like some kind of hot shot."

Will the minister make three simple commitments today: (1) commit to going on patrol with Metro officers; (2) delay the implementation of the regulation on firearms reporting until an independent committee with front-line police representation can fully examine it; and (3) assure the House that his party's absurd policy to take guns away from officers on routine patrol will never see the light of day?

Hon Mr Pilkey: I indicated and responded as I did to the initial question that it is not the position of this government nor this minister that officers on regular patrol do so in an unarmed fashion. I don't believe that was the resolution that was passed at our recent party convention in Hamilton. I believe the resolution that was passed there had to do with the drawing of revolvers and reporting. I want to make clear that it is not the position of this government that officers not be armed when they are on patrol: They should be, they always have been and I suspect they will always be required to.

With respect to the other question, as I indicated, I'll be meeting with the associations. I really don't know what the problem with respect to filing a report is. Officers presently file all kinds of reports for all manners and makes of situations. Certainly at that situation, where you have a lethal weapon in your hand, that surely qualifies for a report to be made. I don't think that is particularly difficult or onerous, and certainly it's not intended to do anything in terms of eliminating the officer's potential to perform his or her duties.

Mr Runciman: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The minister clearly suggested that I was misleading the House. This is a 1988 policy that regulations be revised to prevent the arming of—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. To the member for Leeds-Grenville, while I did not hear the Solicitor General use the term "mislead," if in fact the member feels he's been insulted, the minister may wish to respond. But I did not hear the word "mislead" having been uttered.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): My question is for the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, in my riding of Northumberland, and many others as well across the province, there has been and continues to be a huge outcry to save our ambulances.

Many municipal councils have passed resolutions urging you and your Premier to stop the killer cutbacks to our emergency medical services. I've had numerous phone calls and letters from my constituents demanding your government to keep this vital service intact. In fact, a citizens' group has been formed under the appropriate name of Save our Ambulances.

Yesterday, I met with Bob DeShane, president of the Lakeshore Emergency Service, the company responsible for ambulance service in Cobourg, Port Hope, Hamilton township and Hope township, where almost half the entire population of the county lives. That's approximately 35,000 people. Mr DeShane has told me that due to your government's lack of direction, he will be forced to cut a day car and also emergency onsite staffing by as much as two 12-hour shifts per day, replacing them with standby and callback. This will add a minimum of 10 minutes more to every response and surely endanger many lives in rural Ontario. Not only that, but Bob will be forced to lay off four full-time staff and part-time staff used for the day car.

I appeal to you, Madam Minister, will you get your budgetary priorities straight and help maintain essential emergency ambulance service in Northumberland?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I recall, in response to a question to the Treasurer and his response, that the Leader of the Opposition said there has never been an occasion when her party asked for spending and cuts on different days. Maybe she was right; they do it on the same day.

I would say to the member that the point she raises about the very important job that ambulance services do and the need for preserving front-line services is a point that I agree with her on.

Her facts are wrong with respect to budgetary priorities. I would point out to her that across the Ministry of Health budget, in terms of our own internal budgets, it was a zero this year that we planned for, and we transferred 1% to the ambulance services. So the operator she's talking about actually received a 1% increase in budget, not a cut to the budget, and that in fact was a higher allocation than we gave to our budgetary lines. I think that does indicate some sense of priority for emergency services within a fiscal constraint period.

Mrs Fawcett: When we get a little touchy about the budgets, I have to wonder. I mean, you must have some money left in your budget, you must have it allocated, and all we are asking you to do is to take priorities here and fund essential emergency services. It's interesting that the nine ministry-run ambulance services, which are having as much difficulty staying within that 1% cap, continue to be bailed out.

The minister will know that since August 1, Lakeshore ambulance service has been waiting for either approval to continue the excellence service it provides or Management Board approval to cut the services. Neither has come forth. There have been no decisions made. Now we are at the first week in November and Bob DeShane cannot cut the services to meet your budgetary requirements because Management Board won't make the decision, and he

doesn't know how he can continue to maintain the fast, effective emergency medical service. What is your advice to him?

Surely, we cannot afford to play Russian roulette with our ambulance services in rural Ontario. Surely, it's far cheaper to link people to the sophisticated medical treatment they deserve and demand than it is to buy a CAT scan or put specialists in every hospital in rural Ontario. Surely, the minister would not deny social justice in an effort to support financial restraint.

What is your advice to the people in rural Ontario? What do you say to my constituents in Northumberland? Exactly what do you want private ambulance operators like Bob DeShane to do?

Hon Ms Lankin: Again I say to the member that she needs to get her facts straight. With respect to the ministry's budgets, we have had a 0% increase across the line budgets within the ministry. With respect to our transfer payments to ambulance services outside that are run by private operator-owners, in fact, we had a 1% increase.

What do I expect ambulance operators to do? I expect them to work with the Ministry of Health to attempt to manage within the allocations that have been set out. I can certainly indicate that in a number of areas of the province where we have had similar problems we have offered, as we have right across the province, to sit down with ambulance operators and their unions to try to work through examples of other ways of saving money rather than going to direct cuts. We've also looked at areas where in fact cuts have been proposed and tried to ascertain whether they are ones that could be lived with that wouldn't be of very serious consequence in terms of delivery of service.

Mrs Fawcett: They have to have your approval to cut services.

Hon Ms Lankin: Again the member is heckling over there and is going on about Management Board. Management Board has nothing to do with this; treasury board has nothing to do with this. I can say very clearly this is an issue within the emergency health branch. I, as minister, will give a final decision. We're willing to sit down with the people in that area who are running those services and attempt to work through some of these questions. The offer stands.

EAST OF BAY DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): My question is to the Minister of Housing. Yesterday afternoon we had a typical Bob Rae dog-and-pony show in the media studio. At least the Minister of Culture and Communications had the courage to make her statement in the House; the Minister of Housing chose to make her statement in the media studio. I'm talking about the ballet opera house lands.

The ballet opera house lands are in the most valuable area of the city of Toronto in terms of real estate and this government has now made a decision to sell these lands at a fire sale price when the market is at its lowest, without waiting for a feasibility study, which it considers as part of the package, on the renovations to the O'Keefe Centre. Without all that information, this government has decided

on the most expensive land in the city to build subsidized housing.

I would simply like to ask this minister why she is moving blindly forward rather than waiting for the feasibility study results and a better real estate market.

1520

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): First of all, I should tell the member that there is no fire sale of the property involved in the planning that is going on around the former ballet opera house site. What we had planned and what we are planning, and what I discussed yesterday in connection with the announcement by the Minister of Culture and Communications, was the development of three projects which will begin on the southern end of that property.

On the northern end, which is the section where it had been thought that we might have a ballet opera house, the planning will proceed with a mixture of housing, some of which will be market housing, in other words, privately developed and privately sold housing; some of it, which will be developed under our guidelines for affordable housing, will also be privately developed and privately sold, and some of it will be housing which we will be developing under our non-profit program.

Mrs Marland: I could understand that response if it came from somebody other than the Minister of Housing. The minister has to realize we're talking about three and a half acres here; we're not talking about 40 or 50 acres. It's so ludicrous what she's actually saying. The minister actually said yesterday, "It'll be a community that has some services built right in, possibly a park, recreational facilities and even a school." How is it possible to consider all of those things? What is the park going to be, 200 square feet? How can all those things be built into three and a half acres?

The main point of my question, and I think this is what I say to this government as keeper of the public purse, is that it has a nerve selling government-owned land for subsidized housing. I simply say to the Minister of Housing, would you please tell us what your vision is of community housing for families, that you would choose this site in the heavy traffic, heavy pollution, no schools, no facilities, in reality?

Let's be honest. Let's say we're selling it to our friends to build subsidized housing on the most expensive land in the city, instead of locating families where they can live in a good environment with clean air.

Hon Ms Gigantes: The member for Mississauga South has a vision of the downtown cores of our communities which is not my vision or the vision of this government. We believe the downtown cores of our communities across Ontario can be livable and that in fact ordinary people should be able to live in them. They should have access to all the facilities they need for community life in the downtown cores in this province.

I'd like the member to know that while I am in Toronto, I stay in a building that's across the street from that site. In that building there are families, there are children, there are dogs, there are cats and there is a school right down the street. She should come and walk with me and see the

community that can live in this area, and she's going to like to see what we can develop as a community on that land.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): My question is for the Minister of Revenue. I'm seeking clarification from the minister about used motor vehicles purchased privately.

A constituent from Peterborough recently purchased a derelict vehicle and proceeded to repair the vehicle, adding a new motor and other new accessories to the car in order to make it roadworthy. This constituent then proceeded to the local vehicle licence bureau, and was told, much to his chagrin, that he would have to pay the tax calculated from the Canadian Red Book value of the vehicle.

Obviously, the Red Book value of the vehicle did not reflect the true value of the vehicle when purchased. The sales tax assessed by the Red Book value was more than my constituent paid for the car. Can the minister tell me what my constituents can do to avoid this problem in the future?

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue): The used vehicle information program was introduced with the Treasurer's last budget and was the result of some studies that were done that estimated 20,000 curbsiders in the province of Ontario and also a loss of approximately \$88 million to the provincial coffers.

The other issue that was brought to our attention was complaints from residents and constituents who were purchasing vehicles that weren't the vehicles they thought they were purchasing. They were vehicles that had liens on them, some that were used for taxis and they weren't told of it, and therefore had difficulty and had no protection as consumers.

That is what this information package and the new program are all about. To prevent the losses, legislation was introduced requiring that the tax be paid on the greater purchase price or average wholesale value as listed in the Canadian Red Book publication, which was approved by the car dealers in the province of Ontario, as the Red Book is the one most often used.

Vehicles that have been subject to excessive use or damage in an accident could be expected to have a reduced value. If you paid less than the Red Book wholesale value and this is supported by an appraisal, you can apply for a refund from the Ministry of Revenue for the amount of tax overpaid.

Ms Carter: On the question of appraisals, could the minister tell me who is eligible to assess and appraise the true value of used cars? Where would they get the necessary forms, and what is the process for having the appraisal approved by your ministry?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): God knows.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Money, money.

Hon Ms Wark-Martyn: Appraisals under this program can be completed by motor vehicle dealers registered under—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the minister take her seat. Minister?

Hon Ms Wark-Martyn: Appraisals under this program can be completed by motor vehicle dealers registered under the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act and holding a vendor's permit issued by the retail sales tax branch, whose primary business is selling motor vehicles; also independent appraisers who are recognized by insurance companies.

Appraisal forms are available from motor vehicle license insurers, the retail sales branch, field offices, Ministry of Revenue information offices and by mail from the Ministry of Revenue. These forms have also been provided to several motor vehicle dealers upon their own request.

The approval process for appraisals consists of ensuring that the appraisal form is fully completed and signed by a registered dealer or recognized independent appraiser.

Ministry staff from all three ministries involved are currently reviewing the results of the first month of operation of the new program, with a view to ensuring that our administrative rules are fair and reasonable.

SERVICES D'EXAMENS DE CONDUCTEURS

M. Jean Poirier (Prescott et Russell) : J'ai une question pour le ministre des Transports, s'il veut bien se brancher et bien écouter.

Monsieur le ministre, des propriétaires de companies d'autobus intercités et scolaires m'ont contacté récemment pour me décrire le cauchemar auquel ils doivent faire face depuis que votre gouvernement a dramatiquement coupé les services d'examens de conducteurs dans les bureaux de licence de la province. Grâce à vos coupures de services dans les bureaux de licence, ils doivent maintenant attendre plusieurs mois avant d'avoir un rendez-vous pour leurs employés désireux d'obtenir un permis leur permettant de conduire un autobus scolaire ou intercité.

Ces propriétaires ont des contrats avec des conseils scolaires pour transporter les élèves. Monsieur le ministre, voyez-vous le dilemme dans lequel vous placez les propriétaires et les chauffeurs ? Voulez-vous que l'on force les chauffeurs d'autobus scolaires non qualifiés à transporter des élèves puisque vous refusez de fournir un service adéquat d'examens de conduite ?

L'hon Gilles Pouliot (Ministre des Transports) : La question, comme vous l'avez bien sûr écoutée et entendue, est celle-ci : Est-ce que le ministre responsable pour les transports pour la province de l'Ontario comprend le dilemme ?

Non seulement comprend-il ce dilemme, mais je voudrais rassurer mon collègue. Ce qui se produit actuellement, c'est qu'on nous a demandé, à cause des temps non impossibles mais des temps difficiles ici en Ontario, à cause aussi des coupures budgétaires, de regarder en profondeur les services qui sont présentement offerts.

1530

Une voix : Ça fait deux ans.

L'hon M. Pouliot : Je veux rassurer — Écoutez, il ne faut pas crier, là. Soyez calme.

Si on parle de gens qui doivent gagner leur vie, si on parle de chauffeurs d'autobus, notre gouvernement s'est engagé à rendre cette demande comme priorité. C'est donc dire que traditionnellement, si on avait une période, mettons,

de quatre à six semaines, on doit reconnaître le besoin des gens qui doivent gagner leur vie, et on s'engage à le faire.

M. Poirier : Monsieur le ministre, on parle de trois ou quatre mois d'attente. Ces propriétaires d'autobus perdent souvent des montants frisant les 20 000 \$ par année en permis d'opération. Qu'allez-vous faire pour corriger cette situation-là potentiellement dangereuse, où la vie des enfants pourrait être mise en danger, faute de chauffeurs qualifiés ? Pas cinq à six semaines.

Au mois de février, avec des rendez-vous vers 2 heures de l'après-midi, où les propriétaires des compagnies doivent prendre leur autobus, un autre chauffeur qualifié pour aller dans une ville jusqu'à 100 kilomètres de là, à 2 heures de l'après-midi, quand ils doivent être au conseil scolaire chercher des enfants à 3 heures, qu'est-ce que vous allez faire ? Ne parlez-moi pas de coupures, parce que s'il y a jamais un accident avec un autobus scolaire et qu'il y a des enfants qui sont tués, avec des chauffeurs non qualifiés, on s'en parlera sûrement. Je veux que vous me disiez comment vous allez régler le problème dans mes bureaux de licence, dans ma circonscription et ailleurs dans la province.

L'hon M. Pouliot : C'est une bonne question. Mais avant de répondre, cher ami, cher collègue, vous savez, il n'y a aucun ministre dans le passé ou dans le présent, qui se promène avec du sang sur les mains. Personne ne veut avoir des accidents. Nous sommes tous conscients. La sécurité des enfants, c'est primordiale.

Vous apportez à la Chambre un problème, un problème qui est vrai, un problème qui possiblement pourrait être résolu avec la bonne volonté du gouvernement. Je m'engage à le faire. Cher collègue, vous avez parfaitement raison qu'il est tout à fait inacceptable dans des cas présents que vous venez de nous présenter. Avec tout le respect qui vous est dû, je vais les résoudre, vos problèmes, immédiatement.

GAMBLING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Mr Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who, as we know, is the minister responsible for gambling casinos in the province of Ontario.

We've just spent some time this week and last in estimates dealing with the subject of gambling casinos, and we discovered that there are at least three groups which will be devastated by the introduction of casino gambling in the province of Ontario. These include charities, the horse racing industry and compulsive gamblers. Yet the minister has not allowed these three groups to participate in her project team, which is studying the introduction of a gambling casino in the city of Windsor.

My question is, why have no representatives of the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling, charities or the horse racing industry been named to your casino project team?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): The project team is made up mostly of civil servants from the government. What we are doing—first, let me correct the impression that the member left, which is that these three sectors will be devastated

by a pilot project that will be started in Windsor. There is certainly no indication that that is going to happen.

What we are doing is working with the Ontario Racing Commission and our own people to do extensive consultations with the three sectors that he talked about, and we will focus in particular on the Windsor area, where the pilot project will be set up. As I already announced, this will be implemented carefully and we will have consultations.

May I add that, as the member well knows, we have been working with the horse racing industry lately on things like teletheatres and simulcasting and have come up with a new tax-sharing agreement with the racing industry. So we have been working with that industry and the other sectors for some time.

Mr Tilson: The record will show in estimates, Madam Minister, and you know it, that you have not been discussing with these groups around the province of Ontario. They are waiting eagerly for you to do that.

Your ministry has established a casino project team at a cost of \$2.5 million to examine all aspects of the pilot project being established in Windsor. Of your 24 team members, why have four positions been specifically earmarked to deal with native issues, yet no positions are available to charities, the racing industry or the Compulsive Gambling Institute?

Hon Ms Churley: As I already said, the project team is made up mostly of civil servants who already work for the government, who have expertise in particular areas—for example, Solicitor General, Attorney General, native affairs. These people have been brought together to bring their particular areas of expertise to the group.

As I said, they will be consulting with the people who deal with compulsive gamblers. They will be consulting with the charities. The Ontario Racing Commission, as will be seen in the record, has already talked with and consulted with the major stakeholders from the horse racing industry and will continue to do that, as it is doing right now in Windsor.

The positions that are dealing with the actual native aspect—I don't think there are actually four, but may I say here that we are in the process of negotiating with the native communities on charitable gaming. We will continue the process of consulting with them in terms of our statement of recognition of dealing with them on a government-to-government basis and we will be continuing to do that.

LANDFILL

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Minister, as you know, 10 of the candidate sites by the IWA are within my riding, the riding of Durham-York. My community is obviously not a willing host. They don't want a dump. Minister, can you explain to me why my constituents have a 10-out-of-57 chance to win this landfill site in their backyard and why Kirkland Lake has been ruled out when it claims to be a willing host?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I'm glad to answer the question from the member, who I know has had particular pressure from his constituents and has

certainly been very concerned about the decisions the government has made with respect to the location of landfill sites for the greater Toronto area.

I want to remind the member that our government has a commitment to that landfill site being found under the Environmental Assessment Act. He mentions the previous scheme to send waste to Kirkland Lake, but Kirkland Lake was one of a number of sites across the province. The site that had been identified in Kirkland Lake, an old open-pit mine half full of water, was going to be given an exemption from the Environmental Assessment Act.

If one is going to do a province-wide search for a landfill, you have to find the best possible site by a process of elimination. I very much doubt whether any of the people across the province who were targeted by the previous government as potential landfill sites want that to happen. In fact, what we are doing within the greater Toronto area is assuring that waste is disposed of as close as possible to the source of generation after we've done as much as we possibly can to reduce, reuse and recycle.

1540

Mr O'Connor: Last week there was an article in the Sun where the deputy chief administrator for the Metro council joint works committee talked about the fact that the cost of buying and preparing the abandoned mine in Kirkland Lake would only be \$34 million compared to \$300 million to obtain and prepare a new site in York. Minister, how can you ignore such a huge difference on farm land in these difficult times?

Hon Mrs Grier: I too read that story and was very interested in the figures it contained. We immediately contacted Metropolitan Toronto works officials to ascertain the source of the figures that were the subject of the story in—I think it was—a Toronto paper. It was interesting what we got back.

What we found was that nobody was accepting ownership of the figures that had been quoted, and it was very difficult to identify who in fact had been quoted and where they came from. Secondly, no studies had been performed. Thirdly, the costs that were estimated for Kirkland Lake were based on land costs only and were taken from an estimate that had been made several years ago when the owners of the Adams mine had made a non-competitive bid on the land costs for a York region site. They were derived by Metro works department personnel and were based on estimated land requirements, cost of land purchase and expropriation. There is no paperwork available on this breakdown.

In the opinion of the staff at Metro works, if true figures were to be derived, the costs of Kirkland Lake would be only marginally cheaper than the costs in York region, but what matters is the cost to the environment as well as the cost to the economy of the decisions we make. Reduction, reuse and recycling and landfill close to the source of generation—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Mrs Grier: —are the environmental solutions to those problems.

The Speaker: New question, the member for North York

Mr Charles Beer (York North): It seems to me that we're going to need a lot more room over here if the minister keeps giving those kinds of answers to questions that are being raised by members of her own party that she won't answer.

The Speaker: To whom is your question directed?

CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Mr Charles Beer (York North): My question is to the Minister of Education. Minister, I have in my hand a memorandum dated October 21 of this year. The subject is a capital funding proposal and it has gone out to the chairs of all school boards.

You will understand that this proposal, which calls for a fundamental change in existing educational capital funding policy, is causing a great deal of concern among school boards throughout the province—as much concern, I might add, as the growing belief among school boards that this government is going to withdraw its promise to ensure a 2% transfer payment for school boards next year.

Minister, my question is simply this: Based on this memorandum that you've sent out, is it your intention to establish an educational capital corporation and to force school boards to debenture, to borrow funds for future capital construction?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): There has been no decision made on whether we will proceed with the capital corporation or in fact the whole issue of debenturing. That's exactly what the proposal is out there for. It's to get reactions from school boards. I've also discussed this proposal with the advisory council on finance, which, I remind the member, is made up of representatives from the various school board associations. We will look at the responses and we will then make a decision within the ministry and within the government about whether we are going to proceed in this direction.

I've indicated that there clearly is some attraction to us in moving in this direction, but obviously, before we make the decision we want to know the responses from the school boards and to hear from them any concerns that they might have.

Mr Beer: I'd like to draw the attention of the minister to an old document, to the Ontario budget of 1978, a budget brought in by the former Conservative government of the day. The Honourable Darcy McKeough in fact brought this in. It makes for some very interesting reading about capital funding in this province.

If you read that and you look at the proposal that you have now sent out to school boards, the intent is simply to move capital funding out of the budget so that the Treasurer can make it look as though the deficit is going to be a lot smaller than it actually is. The concern is not only that this is going to happen to educational capital but that the Treasurer is going to try to remove all \$3.9 billion of the capital projects of this government out into this capital corporation.

Minister, my question simply is this: Can you confirm that in fact that is the intent of the Treasurer? How will this proposal help school boards other than ensuring that local ratepayers are going to have to pay increased interest charges on the debentures that they're going to have to draw? Can you answer that, Mr Minister?

Hon Mr Silipo: I want to be very clear with the member that the Treasurer of course will be able to more than adequately answer questions directed to him. What I can say to the member opposite is that there is no intention in any of the contemplation to the possibility of moving to a debenturing system to in any way reduce our obligation or our commitment to fund capital projects.

There would not be any intention, certainly, to force school boards to debenture their portion of the capital costs that would be available to them if we were to move in this direction. The debenturing proposal that would be there, if we were to proceed in that direction, would be for the portion of the capital cost that would be the provincial responsibility. We've made that very clear and I would certainly continue to make that very clear to school boards.

PETITIONS

GAMBLING

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I have a petition that is signed by some 300 or more constituents from my riding. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems."

I agree with this petition, and I'm affixing my signature thereto.

LANDFILL

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition of 54 names from my riding of Dufferin-Peel. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Interim Waste Authority has released a list of 21 proposed sites in the region of Peel as possible candidates for landfill, 15 of which are located in the town of Caledon; and

"Whereas the decision to prohibit the regions of the greater Toronto area from searching for landfill sites beyond their boundaries is contrary to the intent of the Environmental Assessment Act, subsection 5(3); and

"Whereas the government has promised each person in Ontario the right to a full environmental assessment, including the right to a review of all options as it pertains to waste disposal in Ontario,

"We, the undersigned, protest and petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario repeal Bill 143 in its entirety and allow a more democratic process for the consideration of future options for the disposal of the greater Toronto area waste, particularly disposal sites beyond the boundaries of the greater Toronto area where a 'willing host' community exists who is interested in developing new disposal systems for greater Toronto area waste."

I have affixed my name to this petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 32 residents of the county of Middlesex. They are petitioning the Legislature of Ontario in regard to the arbitrator's report for the greater London area. They respectfully ask the Legislature to set aside the arbitrator's report because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority who participated in the arbitration hearings, awards too extensive an area of land to the city of London, will jeopardize agricultural land, the viability of the county of Middlesex and will jeopardize our rural way of life.

I have signed my name to this petition.

DRUG BENEFITS

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition signed by hundreds of residents in an area of Malton in my riding of Mississauga North which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, on behalf of the senior citizens of this province, do petition the government of the province of Ontario to reconsider the long list of drugs and therapies which have been excluded from payment under Ontario's health plan."

This is a petition that has been signed by hundreds of seniors in the riding of Mississauga North and in the Malton area, and I sign my name to this petition.

INVESTMENT FUND

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I'm pleased to table a petition signed by approximately 1,000 constituents from my riding of Oakville South which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we, the undersigned, members of the Ontario municipal employees retirement system, do not want our pension funds invested in the Ontario investment fund; and

"Whereas we cannot jeopardize our retirement income by allowing the government to decide where our hard-earned capital should be invested; and

"Whereas it is very tempting to dip into our piggy bank without using the democratic process; and

"Whereas this is not how you protect the welfare of the worker,

"We, the undersigned, respectfully petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to listen to our concerns, and 'hands off' our pension funds."

1550

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): I have a petition signed by over 1,000 hardworking men and women of Brantford, and it reads:

"Whereas the changing nature of Ontario's economy has altered the traditional employment patterns in the province; and

"Whereas the Ontario Labour Relations Act has not been amended in some time to reflect these changing patterns,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario to immediately bring into law the proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, as outlined in Bill 40."

That's signed by over 1,000 hardworking men and women of Brantford.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): I also have a petition which I would like to present today. This petition comes from the Trenton Police Association in the city of Trenton. It's signed by thousands of residents of the Trenton area, and of course it goes in support of our police officers. It's addressed to the members of the Legislative Assembly and the Speaker of the province of Ontario.

"As a citizen of Ontario, I give my full support for our police officers in their stand against the NDP government's new regulation, use-of-force reporting."

I support this petition that has been given to me and hope that the government changes its mind on the stand it has taken.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I have affixed my signature.

UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): I have a petition bearing the signatures of 46 of my constituents who are concerned about the issue of university accountability. Using the more stringent accountability standards in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom as examples, they petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To make the accountability standards of universities in Ontario comparable to those Commonwealth countries."

They all hope that the current university accountability task force will produce results that address their concerns.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have another petition signed by concerned residents of the city of Toronto.

"Whereas Metro Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived plan to bring in market value assessment in spite of the solid opposition of the city of Toronto; and

"Whereas we believe market value as the basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto is the wrong tax at the wrong time in the wrong place; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relation to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas if the province changes legislation to deny the city of Toronto the right to determine our own method of property tax reform, Toronto home owners, tenants and businesses will, in future, be left to the mercy of regional government; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and our small businesses will be devastated by further increases; and

"Whereas the city of Toronto residents account for 29% of Metro's population but Toronto taxpayers foot 42% of Metro's bills,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto, and to allow each local municipality in Metro Toronto the autonomy to determine our own method of property tax reform in our own municipality."

I have signed this petition because I heartily concur with it.

STABLE FUNDING

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I have a petition here signed by a number of farmers throughout Ontario. It's dealing with the proposal that's being put before the Minister of Agriculture and Food on stable funding and reads:

"Whereas two thirds of the farmers in Ontario do not belong to any of the general farm organizations and do not hold the concentrated numbers, they are strongly opposed to the legislation empowering stable funding in the province of Ontario."

I affix my signature to it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): I have another petition which I would like to present on behalf of many constituents in my riding. This particular petition comes from members of the Eastminster United Church in the city of Belleville. It's re amendments of the Retail Business Holidays Act, the proposed wide-open Sunday shopping and elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday. It reads:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I have signed my name to this and I would like to present it.

ABORTION CLINIC

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I have a petition signed by some 300 plus constituents. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the government of Ontario has expressed its intention to use \$400,000 of taxpayers' money to increase the security at the private abortion clinic of Dr Henry Morgentaler and an additional \$200,000 of taxpayers' money to help rebuild this 'for profit' clinic;

"Whereas the Ontario deficit has risen to astronomical proportions, creating serious hardship for Ontario taxpayers, at the same time that programs and services are being withdrawn, including crucial health care and social service programs;

"Whereas all other private Ontario businesses are expected to provide their own security and obtain business insurance to cover fire, vandalism and other such calamities,

"We, the undersigned, while abhorring the violent act which destroyed Dr Morgentaler's clinic, do petition the Legislature of Ontario to immediately recant its intention to inappropriately utilize Ontario tax dollars on this private clinic."

I've affixed my signature thereto.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): With great hesitation I bring a petition forward from the congregation of St Paul's United Church. I hope the Clerk of the table will accept this. It says:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

LAYOFFS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a petition to members of the provincial Parliament signed by several interested individuals. It says the following:

"Whereas the general level of unemployment in Ontario is extremely high and has caused severe hardship for individuals and families;

"Whereas hundreds of firms in Ontario have filed for bankruptcy and have had their employees join the ranks of those on the unemployment rolls;

"Whereas youth unemployment is higher in Ontario than in all other provinces;

"Whereas General Motors may announce several plant closings, with resulting job losses, this month, and the presence of the Premier in the province is necessary to persuade General Motors to keep all of its Ontario operations open;

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to return immediately from his trip to Asia and to remain in North America to present Ontario GM workers' case to General Motors officials and to respond to important and urgent questions about the Ontario economy in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

I affix my signature to this, since I agree with the sentiments of this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): I have a petition here signed by a number of residents from the Amherstburg area and it is pertaining to the opposition to the Sunday shopping terms and making sure that it's taken out of the bill and the bill is defeated, and I do affix my signature to it.

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): I have a petition to the members of the provincial Parliament. It reads:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I attach my name to that, as well.

1600

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I've got a petition here, and like many of those we've heard, it's to register a complaint against Sunday shopping. I'll read it to you.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposed amendment to the Retail Business Holidays Act. I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for quality of life, religious freedom and family time. The elimination of such a time would be detrimental to the fabric of our society in Ontario and cause increased hardship to many families."

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I support this and affix my name. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT REPEAL ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 ABROGEANT LA LOI MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI A TRAIT AUX RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL ET À L'EMPLOI

On motion by Mr Eves, in the absence of Mr Harris, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 93, An Act to repeal the Labour Relations and Employment Statute Law Amendment Act, 1992 / Loi abrogeant la Loi de 1992 modifiant des lois en ce qui a trait aux relations de travail et à l'emploi

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Eves, do you have any comments?

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Yes I do. Very briefly, we've had some advice from legislative counsel with respect to this particular piece of legislation, and the bill is worded in such a way that it will come into force on the day that the Labour Relations and Employment Statute Law Amendment Act, 1992, receives royal assent. If that happens to be today, I guess that's the day this bill will come into effect.

Very simply, the purpose of the bill is to repeal what is commonly known as Bill 40, which is the government bill that's being debated for third and final reading in the Legislature this afternoon. Mr Harris feels extremely strongly that this bill will be very detrimental to employment in the province of Ontario, and has made a commitment that if he were to form the government at some future point in time, he would repeal the legislation immediately. He gave the offer to the government today—to the Treasurer, I believe, during question period—that this bill should be repealed as soon as it is passed.

RAINBOW HALFWAY HOUSE ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr White, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr68, An Act to revive Rainbow Halfway House.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI A TRAIT AUX RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL ET À L'EMPLOI

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for third reading of Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui a trait à la négociation collective et à l'emploi.

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio): I understand we have unanimous consent to divide the time equally.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Unanimous consent? Agreed. The member for St Catharines-Brock.

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): It is a privilege to be able to speak on this bill, Bill 40, amending the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

I was part of the Canadian Union of Public Employees for the better part of 14 years. During that time, I was part of several organizing drives. More than some in this House, I would say that I have participated—I have considerable experience in fact—in the certification process.

Organizing and certification: The simplest way of describing that process is that workers, individuals, decide for themselves whether they wish to join a union or not. I believe it is a democratic choice. Some would suggest that secret ballots are required. I disagree. My experience has shown me that workers are able to make that decision for themselves. Remember, I have just outlined the fact that each individual makes that choice. Once enough cards are signed, an application to be certified is submitted—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): They have to vote publicly. Is that democratic?

Ms Haeck: Thank you, Mr Elston, but your comments really aren't required. And should an insufficient number be collected, a secret ballot does become the order of the day. Just for your information, Mr Elston, the member for Bruce, I personally have been part and parcel of a secret ballot vote to organize CUPE Local 2220 back in 1978, library workers. After the whole certification process was started, we went through a secret ballot.

Unlike some of you out there, I am personally very much aware of how the process works. I realize it is completely fair, completely democratic and very, very much representative of the workers involved, thank you very much.

I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Labour, which conducted that particular process in a very competent manner, just like any other election process this country runs.

Mr Elston: In 1972?

Ms Haeck: It was 1978, as a matter of fact. By the way, the union won.

During my union years, I was actively involved on the negotiating team. While some negotiations took longer than others, 90% of those negotiations were settled without a work stoppage. I have heard opposition members—it's hard not to hear them, sometimes—wax long about the fact that somehow the executive members take the strike decision for the membership. Untrue; absolutely wrong. I hope everyone here today will take to heart my personal experience. Such serious decisions are made by the membership, not the executive.

The opposition should remember that most negotiations are settled amicably. Union members do not take strike votes lightly, because the strike costs them, as individuals, money. Somehow, in all the rhetoric, and we do have lots of rhetoric coming from the opposition, I have heard little from the opposition recognizing that union members make a serious financial decision for themselves when they participate in a strike vote.

Throughout this process I have found myself offended by the misrepresentations, the misinformation, that has been generated in opposition to this bill. As a woman

worker, I have found that unions empower workers. They are democratic organizations, far from the right-wing jargon that has been used by some in this House and beyond.

In the heat of the debate, I know that members of this House have forgotten that unions do a lot of good work in our respective communities, whether it's the United Way—in St Catharines alone, over 60% of the dollars raised by the United Way come from the unionized workers in our community. Shall I also remind members that many unions across this province participate in something called the BEST program, which teaches workers basic literacy and numeracy skills. Just to remind everyone here, unions help their communities.

Further, basic health benefits and pensions have been and continue to be priorities for union memberships. To a large degree the social safety net this country enjoys is because of 50 years of hard, hard work by unions, working people and the NDP.

1610

Bill 40 enables workers to organize. So did the original piece of legislation, by the way, but Bill 40 addresses the concerns of part-time workers. CUPE Local 2220 in fact had a large proportion of part-time workers.

I have had business representatives tell me that the aspirations of part-time workers and full-time workers are different. Totally untrue; absolutely untrue. The part-time workers whom I know and with whom I have worked want to become full-time workers but don't have the chance—and that's the only difference.

Can you believe that some suggest that because women part-time workers exist, they do not need or want pensions, that somehow it's just pin money, you know, that they're working for a good time? That's not true. Some go on to suggest that these bargaining units should be kept separate. That's really inappropriate. They have all the same aspirations.

My brothers and sisters within CUPE Local 2220, the St Catharines Public Library, have the same aspirations as each and every one of you. They want to work, they want to earn a decent living and they want to be able to provide good food and housing for their children, to be able to send their children to higher education. The union executive negotiated and continues to negotiate with the administration to achieve their aims.

By the way, this is a composite local. It represents full-time, part-time and even student workers, and it has done so since the early 1980s. Those members draft their contract proposal; they actually do that, Mr Elston, the member for Bruce.

Let me repeat: Those workers sit down and collectively determine their own course of action, and I believe this is democracy in action. There have been an awful lot of myths perpetuated around this legislation. Critics keep insinuating that this legislation will somehow mean a union in every small business or plant. Again, this is far from true. The effort of organizing is just far too intensive and complicated, really, to indicate that this is even going to be a possibility.

In my meetings with business representatives, I have reinforced with them my desire to see a less adversarial

labour-management environment. The US system of labour relations that this province adopted 60 years ago has brought with it unnecessary labour strife.

I support Bill 40 because I see it as the means by which we as a province, and ultimately as a country, thanks to places like British Columbia and Quebec, will see labour and management working cooperatively for the benefit of all. I believe Bill 40 puts this province at the forefront of labour legislation in North America. Its time has come. I will be voting yes for Bill 40.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Quinte.

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank you for recognizing me and allowing me to say a few words today on Bill 40, a bill that we expect this afternoon will be forced through this Legislature because of the rule changes which were made by this present government. I can tell you that I certainly do not agree with the words of the previous speaker. I think she comes from a certain perspective, that she does not take in the total picture of what's going to happen once this bill is put into a law.

I might also mention that later this afternoon, Mr Elston, the member for Bruce, will be putting forth an amendment to the motion on Bill 40 and will be asking that this bill be sent back to committee. I would ask that all the members of this House support this motion, because as all members are aware, even though there have been so-called hearings across the province, there are a lot of groups that have not had the chance to present their arguments about why they feel this bill should be definitely taken back by the government and not voted upon today. When this does come before the Legislature this afternoon, I would ask for the support of all members, because this is basically a very, very bad bill.

I also want to make a point, and I see the Minister of Labour over there sort of chuckling to himself. He will chuckle to himself today, but let me tell you that as statistics start to roll in over the next few days or the next months or the next years, he will see that the problems we have now will be increased because of this specific type of legislation, plus other moves that his government is making to make it very difficult to carry on business in Ontario.

I know they will tell you they see the opposition members and many of the groups that have appeared to make presentations and many of those who would have liked to appear as anti-labour, labour-bashing. But I'd like to relate something to you, because I feel many of the things that have been done by the unions over the last number of years have been very good things. Before I was a member of this Legislature, I was involved in different unions in Ontario, and I can tell you that I have also seen the perspective that the unions come from and the excellent work they have done.

I can also relate to you that my father was on the railroad for 38 years and was a very strong union person and worked very hard for his members. I also remember the circumstances where, at the time of his death, after he had served 38 years on the railroad, my mother was left

with a pension of approximately \$50 a month to support four children who were still at home with her.

I can see the job that the unions have done across this province and across this great country to help improve the workplace, to improve the benefits the union members have won, so I don't like to think that the comments I'm going to say today are anti-union. I'd like to look at it with the perspective that for this province and this country to be very healthy, we have to make sure we're going to provide jobs in Ontario. I think this type of legislation, along with some of the other legislation that has been put forth by the NDP government, is not good for the province.

I'd also like to relate that in the Quinte area, my area, in the cities of both Trenton and Belleville and in Sidney township, we have been experiencing part of what I feel is going to continue to happen unless this government withdraws this legislation. I know that in the city of Trenton alone we've lost almost 1,000 jobs over the last six months, and many of those jobs are union jobs. At Murata Erie we've lost approximately 300 jobs over the last six months. Three or four years ago that plant had over 1,000 employees. Now they've lost 300, the last 300, and the plant has closed.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Why is that?

Mr O'Neil: Why is that? I think it's partly because of the atmosphere that has been created by your government in destroying and turning away investment. I really believe that.

At Paperboard Industries, just north of Trenton in the Glen Miller area, we've lost 184 jobs, and approximately a third of that plant has been closed; Nestle foods, we've lost 140 jobs; Corby Distilleries, a couple of years ago we lost 170 jobs; Quinte Transport, in just the last short while we lost 80 jobs.

Mr Hope: It's economic.

Mr O'Neil: Well, you can say it's economic, yes, but you know—

The Deputy Speaker: Please address the chair.

Mr O'Neil: —we have one of the greatest provinces in the world, or we had one of the greatest provinces in the world, and unless you create that atmosphere where you're going to allow people to continue to stay in business, or you're going to encourage them to come in and start up businesses, or you're not going to drive them out, you're creating an atmosphere where that confidence is lost. Sure, part of it is confidence. People want to know that they can stay in business and they can make things work. But as I say, it's my really firm belief that you are destroying part of that.

Some people would say today that we're really not in a recession, we're in a depression. If it wasn't for many of the government programs we have, some that we have and some in other parts of Canada, we would actually be in a depression. We have to be very careful to make sure that those numbers aren't increased because of legislation that we put forward.

I'd like to give you a little example. I had the chance about a year ago to be away on holidays. In this particular restaurant where we were, people sat down beside us and they started talking. When they knew I was a member of

the Legislature in Ontario, and not of the government party, this person said to me: "You know, we have a large piece of land in the city of Toronto. We had planned on putting up a large complex there and employing approximately between 300 and 400 people."

He said: "We've been examining very closely the legislation that's been passed and the planned legislation, and I can tell you that we pulled the shovels out of the ground. We're not going ahead with the construction of that particular building and hiring those people, because we are really afraid we're not going to be on a competitive basis in the province of Ontario, particularly, in this case, in the city of Toronto, and provide additional jobs."

1620

Not too many people are without knowledge of the problems we have presently in Ontario with the high unemployment rate, the number of students unemployed and with many of the other problems we have. We know this legislation is not going to create one new job. As I just mentioned, it's going to deter people from expanding. Presently some of them are planning on moving out of the province. The whole atmosphere is a very bad one.

I think some of the members of the government seem to think that if we have a plant or a business, whether large or small, making a profit, that profit should be reduced and these profits should be taken away from these people.

Let me tell you that one of the reasons we have been so successful in the province of Ontario is that we have had many industries, small and large businesses, that have been making excellent profits. If they are good companies—which I believe most of the companies in the province of Ontario are—they are making sure they share those profits with their employees, that they are good employers, pay them a just wage and give them good benefits.

But I am afraid that sometimes the atmosphere and the feeling out there with some members of this government is that they feel those people have to be cut down to size. You have to tax them to the point where they can't stay in business, put in legislation or make it so difficult with some of your regulations that their costs have gone sky-high. Because of that we have over 500,000—approaching 600,000—people today out of work.

We have the large number of businesses per day that are going bankrupt. We see all of these problems and we have to learn that we have to cooperate with small and large businesses, manufacturing concerns today, to make it healthy for them so they can exist.

I say to you sincerely that this type of legislation you're bringing in under Bill 40 is really going to be the cause of additional layoffs, additional bankruptcies, additional closures and additional people moving out of the province of Ontario.

I ask the Minister of Labour to again examine this legislation and look at it sincerely. Consider the request made by Mr Elston that this go back to committee to further hear some of the arguments.

One of the points that has been made by the government is that this legislation will not create more strikes in the province of Ontario; it will not mean more days lost because of strikes.

It's not only the companies that suffer from this; it's also all those employees out on the street who are not in there making this wage.

Let me go back to the point about Quebec. It says here: "The only other jurisdiction in North America that has similar legislation is Quebec. It is predicted that strikes will increase, since unions can effectively shut down an employer's operation. In the period 1970 to 1977, which is an eight-year period, there were 64 more strikes in Ontario than in Quebec. From 1978, the year the legislation was passed in Quebec, until 1991, there were 652 more strikes in Quebec than in Ontario."

What does that tell you? What is this legislation going to do if it creates an atmosphere where there are going to be that many more strikes; those people are going to be out of work; jobs are going to be lost; companies are going to close?

I'd like to have more time to speak on this. I could talk for hours on it, but I implore the government, please create in the province of Ontario an atmosphere where people, businesses large and small and manufacturing concerns are going to be able to exist, are going to be able to make a profit so they can hire the people we want them to hire, so we'll get rid of approximately 600,000 people who are unemployed, so the plants won't be closing. I ask and implore you to please consider and please withdraw that legislation today.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I want to preface my remarks today by saying that they are being made after careful deliberation. They are being made after raising legitimate and serious concerns about the impact of the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act for more than 20 months in this House and introducing 94 amendments to the bill, amendments which, although they reflected the genuine concerns of the people through this province, were all defeated by this government.

As a result, Bill 40 today reflects only the original version, the original union-driven agenda. No other agenda item or other point of view was ever included. Is that compromise? Does that reflect true consultation? I would say not.

My comments are also being made because the government never bothered to ask the people in this province to identify the problems with Ontario labour relations or how best to solve these problems. Instead, from the outset, the government used the union leaders' wish list as the basis for change.

It is obvious that the government has conducted a well-orchestrated campaign intended to confuse Ontario residents about the real purpose and impact of Bill 40. Bill 40 is not, as the government claims, about balance and fairness, nor about giving rights to working people. Indeed, Bill 40 destroys the delicate balance and takes away the rights and freedoms of individual workers and provides absolutely no changes for employees who are opposed to being unionized. These new proposals serve only to give unions more rights without any accompanying responsibilities.

Bill 40 actually demonstrates a lack of faith on the part of the government in ascertaining the true wishes of the

workers, particularly in the proposed new certification procedures. A union can now be certified if 55% of the workers in a bargaining unit sign a card indicating that they wish to be represented by a particular union. What about the 45% of the workers who don't want to join a union? What about the workers who sign a card and change their minds? They do not even have the same rights as a consumer dealing with a door-to-door salesman. The consumer at least gets a three-day grace period to change his or her mind. It is unbelievable that employees who sign a union card will not have the same basic consumer rights that the rest of us take for granted in Ontario.

Why is a secret ballot vote important to working men and women? A vote free from interference or influence is important because we know that there are presently not-so-legal tactics used by employers and unions alike. A vote is important to determine the real wishes of the workers, because certification of a union dramatically changes the constitution of a workplace. When a union is certified, it is granted exclusive bargaining rights and the individual workers lose any right to try to better their lot on their own. Therefore, it is a critical choice for workers and it should be made as democratically, fairly and honestly as possible.

The same argument applies in the case of ratification of contracts and strike votes. Why does this government lack faith in the collective judgement of the working people? Why is it so afraid of properly conducted secret ballot votes when it comes to important issues such as certification, ratification of contracts and strike votes?

Moreover, if they really care about workers, why have they not put a process in place which ensures that workers are provided with complete and balanced information about what is involved in joining a union: What are the dues? What does it mean to go on strike?

Although this government constantly talks about the need to inform consumers and is spending \$1.7 million to inform consumers about the new rent control legislation, it refuses to provide the same type of information to workers considering unionization.

1630

No, the primary purpose of Bill 40 is not to give rights and freedoms to workers. Bill 40 is also not intended, as the government says, to enhance cooperation and harmony. Indeed, the government used a process that contributed to polarization and created an adversarial atmosphere from the outset. The process also created an uncertain economic climate which contributed to lost investment and jobs.

Ontario, long considered the business and industrial engine of Canada, continues to gain a reputation as a province that is increasingly hostile to private enterprise. Instead of consensus-building in the highly sensitive area of labour relations and establishing a tripartite task force composed of equal numbers of business, labour and government representatives to review Ontario's labour relations system and make recommendations for constructive changes, the whole agenda has been shaped by proposals drafted by the Labour minister on behalf of unions. There is not one proposal from any other group. The creation of a task force would have allowed for a thorough economic impact

analysis, improved the business climate in the province and ensured that any reform stimulates investment and economic growth and therefore results in jobs—jobs which the taxpayers in this province are desperately seeking.

No, this bill is not about improving cooperation and harmony. If that was the intention, the government would have used the tripartite process. They would also have taken the time to respond to the grave reservations expressed by those concerned about the impact of the bill. They would have responded to the arguments from the legal, business and professional communities. They would have brought labour and business together at the same table to discuss the issues rather than meet with each group separately in isolation. They would have used a process that acknowledges the fact that successful employment relationships are created; they cannot be imposed. The partners must always both believe that the process is balanced and fair, and this has certainly not been the case with Bill 40.

Bill 40 is not a response to an outcry for change. The government has never been able to demonstrate a need for these radical changes. We already have the most comprehensive labour legislation in North America, and people in this province do not see labour law reform changes as a priority. In surveys that have been done, they have indicated this over and over again. Their priority is jobs.

Unfortunately, studies show that this legislation will contribute to further job loss and discourage investment. Instead of taking the time to respond and address the serious and legitimate concerns of individuals and groups such as the children's aid societies and school boards that are concerned about the impact of this bill on the children they serve, the concerns of the municipalities, the concerns of the professional groups and the business community, the unique concerns of the different sectors in our province, this government has run roughshod over the legislative process in order to make its changes as quickly as possible.

They changed the rules. They did not allow all those who applied to appear before the public hearings. They did not allow time for a full public debate on the amendments. The 94 amendments introduced by the PC Party were never all even read into the record or fully debated. These amendments reflected the views of the people in this province and they were never heard.

If Bill 40 is not about fairness and justice, if it is not about giving rights and freedoms to workers, if it's not about creating harmony and cooperation in the workplace, if the government has never been able to demonstrate the need for these radical changes or responded to the legitimate concerns that have been raised, why are these specific changes being introduced?

The answer is simple. The changes to labour law encompassed by Bill 40 originated in November 1989 in a booklet published by the OFL called *The Unequal Bargain*. That booklet contains not only labour's rationale for the changes but also the political imperative for their passage. According to the OFL, the bargain between employers and employees is inherently unequal, and the employers' interests predominate in the labour market and in the workplace. In order for unions to grow, both in terms of numbers and

power, it is crucial to change legislation and thereby "change the outcome of the unequal bargain."

According to the OFL in that document, neither the Liberals nor Conservatives have the political will to change the outcome of the unequal bargain. Organized labour must look to the NDP to accomplish their goal, because: "For New Democrats, changing the terms of the unequal bargain is the fundamental reason for political existence. It is the foundation of the alliance between the labour movement and social democracy."

For the NDP, then, the central purpose of amending the Labour Relations Act is to change the form, the function and, most importantly, the outcome of collective bargaining. Since they believe that collective bargaining per se has been dominated by management, it follows that any and all changes implemented by this government would have to be in the union's favour. By definition, there could not be anything in the reforms to favour management, and there is not.

If one believes, however, that the current system of collective bargaining is generally fair and balanced, it follows that the government amendments, which favour only unions, are unfair. Thus, this government came forward with a plan to present the changes to the Labour Relations Act in the guise of a consultative document, and it disguised the drastic changes that have been made as modest proposals.

The actual conception of Bill 40 was even given a bipartisan face. The Minister of Labour brought together two teams of management and union lawyers and asked them to report on reforms to the Labour Relations Act under the direction of Mr Burkett. The two teams, of course, were not able to reach consensus on anything, and two reports were issued, with Mr Burkett endorsing neither.

As could be expected, the Minister of Labour proceeded with only the union's half of the Burkett report and turned it into a cabinet submission that was leaked to the press last summer. However, that release was just a bargaining ploy. By starting with a truly outrageous set of proposals and by making so-called concessions from the original position, the government attempted to make the final demands appear reasonable.

However, the government's plan to show that Bill 40 was a compromise when it was introduced on June 4, 1992, was short-lived, and the true intent of the government was revealed on June 5. Barely 24 hours after the Labour minister introduced Bill 40, the government moved secretly to change the rules of the Legislature drastically and thereby limit the opportunity for the opposition politicians and the public to dissect the bill and expose its shortcomings and bias.

At the same time that Bill 40 was given second reading and was being sent to a standing committee for summer hearings, a well-coordinated public relations campaign was launched by the government and its supporters. The campaign took great pains to explain that seemingly the only objective of Bill 40 is to allow immigrant women and other disadvantaged groups to organize and fight for a better life. The campaign emphasized that the changes were modest.

The campaign masked the real purpose of Bill 40. The modest and minor changes spoken of by the government concealed the fact that the changing of the outcome of collective bargaining is the true intent of the legislation.

1640

How does Bill 40 seek to address the unequal bargain? Let us begin with the purpose clause. The purpose clause will serve to give unions almost everything they cannot get at the bargaining table.

In effect, the purpose clause, as written, will detract from serious collective bargaining because "differences" between unions and employers will be taken to the Ontario Labour Relations Board where the purpose clause ensures that such differences will be settled in the unions' favour. This purpose clause goes far beyond general principles. It goes beyond promoting the process of collective bargaining. It gives more power to third parties to impose settlements. Moreover, this purpose clause takes the supposedly neutral labour relations board and transforms it into an enforcement agency for union organizers.

I'd like to make one brief, additional comment about the purpose clause. It's extremely important to note an apparently innocuous change to the discussion paper, because I think it demonstrates as clearly as anything else the insidious nature of what has happened as the government made changes.

In the discussion paper, one of the purposes was—and this is important—"to promote harmonious labour relations, industrial peace and the ongoing settlement of differences arising in collective bargaining and under collective agreements between employers and trade unions." That all sounds like motherhood.

But what has happened? The words "arising in collective bargaining and under collective agreements" have been removed without notice or fanfare from Bill 40. Removing those words strikes a fundamental blow against fair collective bargaining because the new wording will allow unions to bring any complaint whatsoever to the board for resolution. It becomes apparent that Bill 40 makes a mockery of collective bargaining and puts all the power in the hands of unions.

Consider these additional points:

(1) In terms of a first contract, Bill 40 allows the organizing union to apply for an arbitrated settlement 30 days after a legal strike or lockout deadline, without going on strike or being locked out. There is no risk whatsoever. Why would a union bargain hard or even go on strike when all it has to do is to sit on its hands for 30 days and get a favourable settlement imposed on the company?

(2) Remember as well, in a case where the union has overlooked something, it can bring "a difference" to the board, whether or not it is in the agreement, and get new terms. Is this fair to the employer? In plain language, then, the provisions of Bill 40 mean that a collective agreement will not be a final document. It can be added to at any time the union wants.

(3) Even worse are the provisions under section 45 of the bill. Those provisions give additional, sweeping and final powers to the labour relations board and its arbitrators. These provisions would allow an arbitrator to override the

terms of a collective agreement and reach out to any employment-related legislation. In other words, section 45 will allow arbitrators, at the behest of unions, to go on fishing trips. If a matter sought by a union is not in a collective agreement, the arbitrator can find it somewhere, whether it be the Pay Equity Act, the Human Rights Code, the upcoming Employment Equity Act or anything else. Wherever the union has to find support for its position, it will be found. Is this fair to the employer?

There is much more I could say about the specific provisions of Bill 40 and the new powers of the board, but I must go on.

I hope you will notice that what I have been saying has nothing to do with allowing disadvantaged people the opportunity to organize. We all support that. What I have been talking about deals with serious matters, serious implications of Bill 40 which simply cannot be characterized as modest changes about which no one should be upset. What I have been talking about are changes to labour relations law which arbitrarily diminish the historic neutrality of what is really the court of labour relations, the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

These changes should upset any fair-minded person, but they have been very carefully masked by a very carefully executed communications plan. The difficulty I've had and the difficulty most people have had who are concerned about the bill is that the issues contained in Bill 40 are so complex to the average person that the arguments are easily glossed over with simplistic slogans about helping poor people to organize.

It's interesting, because I've talked about the Ontario Labour Relations Board and the fact that the historic neutrality had been diminished. There is some proof of that. In an OFL newsletter entitled *It's Time*, they stated that one of the principal aims of Bill 40 is to "strengthen the Ontario Labour Relations Board to act on behalf of working people." That statement shows a fundamental flaw. The Ontario Labour Relations Board should not be working on behalf of anyone. It must be neutral, it must be even-handed and it must be just. Both union and management must have equal access to its offices and its powers.

Let's move now to some of the issues that are better known, such as the provision to ban replacement workers during a strike or lockout. Here at least the government's intentions are crystal clear. The objective is to shut down a struck company as completely as possible and render the employer helpless.

The government has said that the ban on replacement workers is working well in Quebec and that there have been no adverse consequences. That is incorrect. The fact is that since 1978, Quebec, with a much smaller population and a smaller economy, has had more strikes than Ontario. Of course, the government tells us that the strikes are now shorter and less violent in Quebec, which has had a very violent labour history, but why wouldn't the strikes be shorter and less violent? The violence generally associated with strikes comes when striking workers attack replacement workers, and the banning of replacement workers obviously reduces that risk.

All the talk about reducing violence is propaganda. Strikes involving replacement workers are very rare in this province. In fact, of 94 work stoppages last year, only 19 used replacement workers. The real objective of banning such workers is to render the employer helpless. Of course strikes are shorter when replacement workers are banned. The company has no option but to capitulate to union demands or go out of business.

Another reason that the statements about Quebec are misleading is that while strikes may now be shorter in that province than before, there is absolutely no measure of the investment that might have gone to Quebec since 1978 but has not because of the labour laws. That's the question that must now be faced in Ontario. How many investors will refuse to locate or expand in Ontario as a result of these laws, and what will it mean for the economy?

1650

A study conducted by Ernst and Young estimated that almost 300,000 jobs will be lost, along with \$8.8 billion in investment, over the next five years. Even though the government refuted these findings, it resolutely refuses to conduct studies of its own.

In addition to these studies, there is evidence from a business person who attended a meeting in Detroit at which the Deputy Minister of Labour attempted to explain Bill 40 to Michigan investors. The deputy was told very clearly that US interests would be very unlikely to invest in Ontario under such laws. But that testimony of course has been glossed over by the government.

Interestingly, the Ministry of Labour has never responded to the PC Party's freedom of information request on this Detroit meeting. If they have nothing to hide, why have they not made that information available to us?

Thus it appears that we are looking at a highly organized campaign, a campaign not intended to create harmony and cooperation in this province, but a campaign that from the outset has polarized business and labour and seems intent on driving them further and further apart.

Of course you don't hear that from the government. What we hear from the government is that Bill 40 is going to help some individuals get organized in order that they won't have to buy their own needles at the sweatshop. But there's more. What is at work at Queen's Park is a plan to tilt the delicate balance in favour of unions and give control to union leaders in collective bargaining.

Someone has suggested to me that this campaign to make changes in labour law could be called the Trojan Horse ploy. Why? Because the government's public statements appear to conceal the hidden truth about the intent of Bill 40.

What now? What's going to happen in this province after Bill 40 is passed at the end of this session? I would personally encourage people in this province to try to re-establish Ontario as a good place to work and invest. Our leader, Mr Harris, has tabled a bill today to repeal Bill 40 when we form the government and replace it with a process of cooperation and consensus between employees and management.

As for the government, it should have acknowledged the true purpose from the start. That purpose was partially

confirmed by the Treasurer in an interview with the Windsor Star on October 2, 1992, when he said: "I can't imagine a social democratic government worth its salt that wouldn't bring in labour reform. I just don't think a study would have proven anything." No, obviously a study would not have proven anything if the original intention was always to introduce these radical changes, no matter what, and change the outcome of collective bargaining.

However, this government must still answer two simple questions for people in this province: (1) What will be the cost to the Ontario economy of these changes, and (2) how much investment has been and will be lost because of them?

From the beginning, the government has refused to deal with these questions in a meaningful and a measurable way. Surely, in a province where we are losing 500 jobs a day and where we have a welfare bill of \$1 billion, we, the people of this province, deserve an answer.

Furthermore, I would urge the government to ease up in your drive to stack the score in favour of unions. Please, create a truly tripartite environment in which jobs and prosperity are the shared goals of all Ontarians.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the thousands of individuals and groups who have tried to participate in the process, who sincerely thought their input might make a difference. We've tried to represent their views in our 94 amendments. We've tried to raise their questions of concern in this House. I would like to publicly thank those individuals and those groups for their input and their support; it's been invaluable. I'd also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my leader, my caucus colleagues and my staff for 20 months of very hard work.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate?

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I want to speak for a few minutes about my constituency and some of the people who have come from that area. I represent Oshawa, which is a large industrial community to our east, and the town of Whitby. Frankly, unions have meant a great deal to the working people in those areas, and have offered them dignity and hope and allowed them to participate fully in their community.

As you may know, industrial unions in our province had their start in my riding. In the midst of the Depression, the auto workers in Oshawa took a stand. They didn't wait until times had improved in order to organize; they organized when they needed to. When the company was asking for the fifth pay cut in a row, and General Motors was making, at that point, a \$200-million profit, which in these days would probably be 10 or 20 times that number by equivalent dollars, they took action.

The local mayor, the local community, the police force, stayed neutral in this issue, but the Liberal Premier of the time called in the provincial police, called in the RCMP. And when he didn't have enough troops, he established his own group called Hepburn's Hussars, a group of vigilantes who bivouacked in the basement of this very assembly. Mr Hepburn and his hussars were unsuccessful. CAW Local

222 had its beginnings. However, Mr Hepburn didn't let that deter him. He said he'd won anyway.

It's always easy to make political hay by attacking workers' rights, with the wholehearted support of the provincial press. That was true then and it's glaringly obvious now. A lot has been said about unions. Unions are depicted somehow as the enemy of business, and yet we know that organized workplaces are the most productive in our community.

Even worse, sometimes unions are being depicted as somehow objects, as some foreign source that's going to contaminate our communities. Yet these unions are organized on the basis of the workers making a choice for themselves, for their rights and for their ability to negotiate. Every single union leader is not some imposed boss, but rather someone who's democratically elected. Those democratically elected unions negotiate for the rights and the dignities and the dreams of the people of their communities and their workplaces. If anyone doubts the democratic nature of unions, they should probably spend a few hours at Local 222, as many of my friends have.

I know some of the strikers from that first organizing effort. Several of them have passed away during the past decade, people like Art Schultz and Tommy Simmons, to name a couple. We should honour their contributions and their sacrifices.

1700

From my constituency have come a number of leaders in the labour movement: Cliff Pilkey and Gord Wilson, presidents of the Ontario Federation of Labour; my friend David Archer's father, David Archer; presidents of CUPE 1000, such as Sid Ryan, who is now president of CUPE Ontario, and Mike Stokes, also the former president of CUPE Ontario. Leaders of CUPE 1000 and CAW Local 222 are prominent in our community's life. With our government's new initiatives, such as OTAB, workers elected as representatives are now participating more fully than ever in their community's life.

This afternoon we heard the Minister of Skills Development talking about how auto parts training is going to be injected not by something that happened simply by consulting businesses, but by involving the elected representatives of those workers, a full representation. I think our government should stand proud with that kind of representation.

These labour representations, these organizations, have contributed substantially to socially progressive movements in our communities. We know that Canadian labour has supported day care, social supports and an inclusive agenda. I have here a document from the CAW talking about its support for pay equity, for child care, for a number of very significant political issues. I think we should stand proud and know that in every country in this western hemisphere where there are socially progressive communities and socially progressive governments, they are there because of a strong labour movement.

I want particularly to congratulate the labour council in my community, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month, and to again talk a little bit about our community and how rich it's become because of the full participation of

those working people, people who would not have that strength, would not be participating, were it not for the fact they represent their workers and are part of a labour movement.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I look forward to hearing my colleagues.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate?

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): Although I have only a few minutes to put on record my views with regard to Bill 40, I do not want to let the opportunity pass by without at least putting on the record the views that have been communicated to me in my riding of Nepean and also by other people in the Ottawa area.

Let me say first of all that last winter I consulted my constituents. I try to stay in close touch with the people who elected me. I asked the people of Nepean, through the householders we are allowed to send out: "How do you feel about unions generally? Should unions have more power, should they have less power or about the same power that they have at the present time?"

I should let you know that only 3% of the people who responded said that they should have more power. There were 43% who said unions should have less power and another 43% who said they should have about the same power as they have at the present time.

Frankly, as you can see, there's a fair number of people in my riding of Nepean who have some serious questions about unions in general and about the union movement. I personally am more in the field of those who recognize, as the previous speaker just said, the important place of the union movement in this province.

Even though I'm opposed to this particular bill that is being put forward, I wish to be very clear that I myself and certainly my party do feel there's a very significant place for the union movement in this province, in this country, in fact the world over. As the member for Durham Centre just said, and I agree with him, modern industrial nations have found the union movement a very valuable tool for progressive social legislation and I certainly do not want my vote against Bill 40 interpreted as a vote against the unions.

I must say, before I explain my own opposition to Bill 40, that I do not agree, for example, with the general manager of the Canadian Advanced Technology Association, who speaks for an important industry in my riding and in the Ottawa West area, the high technology area. In a recent article in the Ottawa Business News, he said the following, "Introducing unions into the technology industry would kill the creative process in the workplace, destroy entrepreneurial working environments and restrict the freedom employees have to make decisions and work independently."

Frankly, I am surprised at this position by an important official in a very important sector of our industry. I was a member in part of the committee this summer that was listening to people's reaction with regard to Bill 40. There was, to be fair, a certain distrust, a certain feeling that the unions do not have a place in this province, and I think that is false. I do think if there is a balanced presentation

between what unions can achieve and what management can achieve, that's in the best interests of everyone in this province.

However, if we all recognize the place of the union movement, the question then becomes, what does Bill 40 do, what does it set out to achieve and do the provisions of Bill 40 likely achieve the objectives that the government has set itself?

Yesterday I was at a luncheon where the minister for industry and trade spoke and he clearly identified—and the Minister of Labour has mentioned it, as well, in his speeches and in his documentation—that the key objective of this bill is to improve the partnership between the unions and management and business.

Unfortunately, any fair observer must come and has come to the conclusion that this bill eliminates the balance and destroys the balance in favour of only one partner in the equation. Permit me to quote from a recent editorial in our community newspaper, the Ottawa Citizen, which says, "A partnership suggests a balance of powers, but what the NDP legislation would do is tilt the balance in favour of organized labour in several significant ways."

My own chamber of commerce, as well, in its presentation to the committee last summer made the very same point. They agreed in fact with the government that, yes, we should perhaps try to improve the relationship between labour and management. They agreed with that objective. However, they very strongly felt that the provisions of this bill were not at all in tune with this objective, and in fact, they would have the opposite effect.

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I've also received many letters from my constituents who make the very same point. One gentleman who wrote to me has a very long experience in the field of labour relations. In fact, he worked in British Columbia, in Quebec, in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. He was a consultant on labour relations in all of these provinces, and he served as a non-partisan member of the Canadian Labour Relations Board for a period of 10 years. He sent me a detailed examination of Bill 40, and here's what he had to say with regard to, in particular, the provision for the elimination of replacement workers:

"The proposals are so foreign to equitable collective bargaining as to constitute a denial even of the term 'to strike,' rendering the term meaningless. In the undesirable event of the adoption of the proposals there should be some new word coined to cover the situation, as a strike in which the government intervenes and places all the power in the hands of the trade union is not the situation which throughout the world is known as a 'strike.'"

If experts with a long experience in the field of labour relations come to this kind of conclusion, I think the government should listen and should take heed and realize what it is doing here. They want to reduce conflict, and if they want to be true to democratic principles, you can't reduce conflict by simply eliminating one partner. Of course you can reduce conflict that way, but is that a democratic means, to simply reduce, substantially reduce, the influence and power of one partner in the negotiations?

If the minister and the current government are really interested in substantially improving the position of labour, the workers and the union movement in this province, then I think they should look at what has developed in Europe. Very often they talk about how progressive the labour legislation is in Europe, and to a fair extent, I think that is true. But what is being done in particular in Europe is what is called codetermination. It's the sitting down together on the boards of corporations and of medium-sized businesses where labour is in fact represented in part of the economic decisions that are made by the company.

This is something that, to my surprise, I found out over 10 years ago our unions are not interested in, but I think the presence of the workers in the economic decision-making of this province would radically and appropriately improve the partnership. I feel that there is a place to make sure that the perspective of the workers who contribute their talents and their resources to our economic products is recognized in the economic decision-making process as well.

However, this particular bill goes in a very different direction and does not at all achieve the objective that it has set itself, to improve the partnership between business and labour, because what it does is simply take away the balance that we have had up to now.

Since there are only 10 minutes left for our party, I will have to conclude my remarks. I appreciate the opportunity to briefly speak on this bill and again would indicate my serious disappointment that this government, which is so interested in putting forward the human side of the workers, is moving in a totally wrong direction.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member for his participation. Further debate?

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): I feel that it's a great privilege and an honour to be able to participate in the debate on the Ontario Labour Relations Act. I think it will be looked upon as a great moment in history.

When I think about my father, who worked in Stelco in Hamilton, and look at the hard fight they had for the protection of workers, the struggles they had, and what an impact that had on the working people's families, I think this legislation is important.

Bill 40 will help to reduce the conflicts between the business community and working people. It's going to look at a reduction of the conflicts because it will bring a balance for the rights of the business community and the workers and will lead to cooperation. I think it will provide greater security. It will not only be a benefit for working people but, as well, a benefit for the business community because it will allow us to continue to maintain a high standard of living as well as good working conditions, and maintain a spirit of cooperation. I think that's very important.

As you know, there are many workplaces that have suffered from low wages and been taken advantage of by management. We have to look at how that impacts not only the workers but the families. There are other workplaces that are excellent, where management works well and where there is fair treatment for all. But Bill 40 is going to look at the situations that are not fair and the

things that happen that are not acceptable. It will look to protect the rights of the workers but also to protect the rights of the business community.

I think Bill 40 recognizes and tries to establish a balance, to maintain a good quality of life in the workplace. The workers will really appreciate and work towards good production and maintain their employment as well. That will benefit business, because they will then respect the worker. At the same time, the worker will also respect the people working at management level because I think it will find a balance.

I am very proud that this province of Ontario has a resource of a highly skilled, high-level workforce, and I think we need to take this opportunity. We have lost a lot of highly skilled people in Ontario who have moved to the United States because there was not enough protection for the rights of workers. This bill will protect the rights of working people, those who have high skills, and I think it will maintain the cooperation.

Some of my constituents approached me with their concerns about the rights of business as well as the workers' rights. The Ontario government has to become accountable to reduce the conflicts that happen between management level and the workers, and to bring both sides to the table and cooperate in good faith, to share information and come together to find solutions.

Bill 40, when it is passed and becomes law, will help with future children and will look towards the reduction of conflicts for working people.

In closing, I would like to say that I am very proud of the government's commitment to accountability in maintaining the Ontario Labour Relations Act in the legislation for Ontario. I think, more importantly, that this will lead to a development of economic renewal, a feeling of prosperity and security and perhaps a good spirit of cooperation and working together; the business community and working people cooperating together. I think we can be very proud of the legislation as a model for not only Canada but North America.

1720

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): There's probably one thing that all of us in this House would agree on—in fact, probably all people across Ontario would agree on—and that's the fact that these are indeed difficult economic times in Ontario. I think we would probably also agree that during these very critical times, labour and management need to be able to work together to get Ontario's economy going again.

But instead of encouraging cooperation, the very cooperation that the minister, when he presented these proposals, claimed was one of the goals he wanted to achieve, what we've seen over the last month is that these legislative proposals have polarized labour and management to an extent never seen in this province before.

I don't think there's any question that we can see how the legislation has upset a balance between business and labour, a balance which had helped to ensure that 95% of all collective agreements in this province were settled

without strike action being taken. I think we've seen that this legislation is clearly already driving investments from Ontario at the very time when we most need policies that will create a positive climate for investment in the province.

Our prime concern with this legislation has always been, and will continue to be, its impact on jobs. We have repeatedly noted in this assembly the study by Ernst and Young that suggests that Ontario could lose 295,000 jobs and \$8.8 billion in investment during the next five years because of this legislation.

We recognize that every time we've raised this report, the minister has argued that he does not accept the report. They dispute the findings of the report. So we have said in response: "If you don't believe this report, do your own studies. At least be willing to take an honest look at what the impact of these proposals will be on jobs and the likelihood that these proposals will put more people out of business and more people out of work."

This minister and this government have refused time after time. In spite of requests from opposition parties, in spite of requests from business, in spite of the stated opinion of two thirds of Ontarians that it was reasonable to expect that the government would at least do its own impact studies, it has consistently refused to even contemplate doing that kind of study. They have been determined, with ideological blinders on, to move ahead with these proposals without really wanting to know what it might do to the very workers that they bring the legislation in to protect.

This is not a theoretical debate. We believe, and we believe we have evidence, that jobs in fact are being lost now as a direct result of the legislative proposals. We see Dare Foods in Kitchener, which has cancelled plans to open a new plant in Ontario as a direct result of this labour legislation. We see Long Manufacturing in Mississauga, which is planning to construct a new plant in Michigan rather than Ontario as a direct result of this legislation.

A survey that was conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business found that almost 40% of its members would consider leaving Ontario as a result of this bill. Yet this government, which says that its first priority is jobs, is going ahead with this legislation, even though it will put even more people out of work.

We are tremendously concerned about the impact of this legislation on the ability to attract new investment. We're concerned about the impact of this legislation on the ability to keep existing businesses here. We are concerned that we are not going to be able to keep the jobs we now have, let alone create the new jobs that are needed so that the 555,000 people in this province who are now unemployed will have that chance to get back to work. Surely that is a concern for the workers of this province, and surely it should have been a concern for the government of this province.

But in addition to our concerns about the job impact, we believe that Bill 40 is an affront to the free choice of workers themselves. This government has denied workers the right to a secret ballot before union certification is granted. Under the legislation, the Ontario Labour Relations Board will have the authority to order certification of

a union if the employer violates provisions of the legislation, even if only a small number of workers favour unionization. We see that part-time workers can be forced into a bargaining unit with full-time workers, even if the majority of the part-time workers want to remain separate. This is hardly democratic freedom of choice.

Our caucus has suggested a number of what we believe to be reasonable and positive amendments to Bill 40. The purpose of our amendments is to retain the balance that currently exists in Ontario's labour legislation and to foster an environment that will encourage job-creating investments in our economy.

We are opposed to the ban on replacement workers. There is no evidence that this ban is needed and we believe that its inclusion will have a devastating impact on jobs and on business. We have called for a requirement that a secret ballot certification vote be held in all cases where 30% of workers support unionization. We've suggested that separate unions for full- and part-time workers should be consolidated only if a majority of members in both groups vote in favour. We have suggested changes to the purpose clause of the act to restore the balance between labour and management.

We should not be surprised that none of these amendments was even considered. It has been apparent from the very beginning that this government was determined to push this bill through. It was apparent from the start of the process that this government had absolutely no intention of listening to concerns about this legislation, particularly the concerns of the business community.

The original cabinet submission clearly stated that the government planned to neutralize the business community's opposition to the labour legislation. The public hearings that were held this summer were a sham, because the government did not intend to respond to the concerns. They were prepared to listen only to those who already shared their views.

The government introduced insignificant amendments with great fanfare. At the last possible moment, it tabled 26 new amendments, which the Legislature's resources development committee did not even have time to properly consider.

But perhaps most distressing has been the government's imposition of draconian new rules designed to choke off debate on this bill and others. I do not believe for one moment that it was a coincidence that new rules were introduced one day before Bill 40 was introduced. The government knew it was not going to alter its legislation and it changed the rules so it could ram this bill through. The Liberal caucus voted against these rule changes and the Conservative caucus must surely now see the folly of its decision to vote with the New Democrats and allow these rules to pass.

Our test for this legislation, as it is for any legislation, is, what impact does this legislation have on the economy and on the need to get people working again? We need to create an environment in this province that encourages job-creating investments. We believe that this legislation is eroding confidence in doing business in this province, that it is costing us jobs. We do not believe that it addresses any

real problem. We believe that it should at the very least have been referred to the committee of labour and management that this Premier appointed in order to look at how he could improve labour relations.

Since it appears this government is determined, in a very short period of time, to force this piece of legislation through, I can tell you today that we will be equally determined to repeal any or all parts of this legislation which continue to drive business out of this province.

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I feel privileged today to be the concluding speaker for our party on Bill 40, and I'm pleased to rise on behalf of the people of Wellington, whom I'm so privileged to serve, to speak against Bill 40 one last time.

In conclusion, I want to start off by saying that I want to commend our party's leader for his courageous stand against this bill, the way he has stood up on behalf of the principles he believes in, and for his courageous statement indicating to Ontario that if he is elected Premier in two years, he will rescind this bill.

I want to commend our critic for Labour, the member for Waterloo North, for her principled and rational opposition to this bill. The way she has comported herself in her efforts to present the alternative point of view with respect to this bill has been truly remarkable. She's done an outstanding job.

Our critic for Industry, Trade and Technology has also done a very good job of opposing this bill and putting forward the flaws for the consideration of the government, which it has ignored.

For the rest of our caucus in the PC Party, I feel that we have done our very best, but unfortunately, as we know, the government will within 15 minutes' time use its vast majority to ram this bill through.

Our caucus has based its fight on a number of different principles. We've been fighting for economic sanity in Ontario, we've been fighting for jobs for workers in Ontario and we've been fighting for the democratic rights of workers. We have consistently advocated, and we were the first party to advocate, on behalf of the secret ballot vote. My colleague the member for Waterloo North today presented that to the House on behalf of the workers of Ontario, and the NDP government defeated it.

1730

Bob Rae says his number one priority right now is the economy and jobs. But his actions betray his words, when he rams a bill through the Legislature which will destroy existing jobs in Wellington county and Ontario and inhibit business investment and job creation.

My prediction is that business and job creation in Ontario will remain stagnant, at the very least, for six months to a year as a direct result of Bill 40. This bill could not have come at a worse time, when the province continues to suffer through a severe economic downturn, much of which is as a result of policies of this government.

As we know, the government will pass this bill today. The bouquet of victory will be very sweet for them, I'm sure. But it will soon turn very, very sour as the jobs go

away and as the people start to pull up stakes and leave this province as a result of this government's policies.

This is the most significant, the most important and the most devastating piece of legislation that will be passed by this government over the course of its mandate. I can only say to the people of Ontario: Hold out hope for two years from now, when hopefully a Progressive Conservative government will be in power to rescind this legislation.

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): I only have a very, very brief period of time, but I would like to just put into the record a statement about the impact this would have.

The government of the day takes great pride in pointing to Ford Motor Co and its recent investment in Oakville as a sign of the support it has in its particular legislative program. I'm sure most members will have read the statement today by the new president of Ford warning the Premier, Mr Rae, as to the legislative problems of some of their laws.

I should also tell you that in a conversation I had with Ken Harrigan, the previous president and just retired chairman, when I questioned him about the fact that they had made the announcement on a program that I had worked on for over two years, he said: "If we had to put that plant into Oakville today, it would not go, because of the proposed legislation."

I think it's important that the people of Ontario know that. You can't have it both ways. Right now, there is a situation in Ontario where we are trying to compete with global economies. We have to be fair. I don't think anyone is advocating that we do anything to destroy the union movement, but there's got to be a level playing field, it's got to be fair, it's got to be equitable and it has to have a rationale that people can accept. At the present time, I predict there will be companies, that we will never hear about, that will look at the legislation, look at this jurisdiction and decide that this is not where they're going to come.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I want to make it clear that I am very proud to stand here today on the occasion of third reading of Bill 40, the government's amendments to the Labour Relations Act. Once passed, this bill will become law on January 1, 1993.

Over the last 18 months, I have been honoured to carry out the government's commitment to update the act to reflect the new realities of the workplace and of our economy. Since the 1940s, when this law was first developed, successive governments have made changes and have passed amendments to fit the needs of the time, and that's what we're doing today.

The Labour Relations Act has not been reviewed in more than 15 years, and we all recognize that the face of our workforce has changed dramatically during that time. Since 1975 more than one million women have joined the workforce. Today 61% of all women in Ontario work outside the home. There has been an increase of more than one million workers in the service sector. Part-time work is much more common, and thousands of new Canadians are working at their first jobs in the province of Ontario.

What this government is doing is simply ensuring that there is a continuation of basic democratic rights: employees' rights to join an organization of their choice and a basic right for that organization to be able to bargain with the employer. These are not new rights. These rights go back decades in the history of this province. These are rights protected and encouraged by previous governments, and I am proud that this government is carrying on this great tradition. We must continue to recognize the enormous contributions workers make to the workplace, to the bottom line, to the economy and to society as a whole.

This reform has focused on four central areas.

First, we are updating the act to recognize the diversity of Ontario's workforce and workplaces. Right now, women and part-time workers face many obstacles to organizing and effective bargaining. The act was designed for large industrial plants employing, largely, male full-time workers.

The second goal is to promote greater cooperation and harmony between labour and management in the workplace. Measures in this area allow for greater ongoing discussion of key workplace issues on a number of formal and informal levels.

The third objective is to reduce the level of industrial conflict in the province by removing the flashpoints and obstacles that frustrate and aggravate effective labour-management relations.

Fourth, we are streamlining and simplifying procedures before the labour relations board and before arbitrators.

To develop these amendments, this government underwent a long, intense and comprehensive process of consultation with business, labour, community and women's groups. This has been the most extensive consultation in the history of this province.

One year ago, we released a discussion paper setting out options for reform, which served as a basis for our public consultation process. I personally travelled to 11 communities across the province and talked to more than 300 groups about their thoughts on labour law reform. We listened to groups representing business, labour, unorganized workers, women, immigrants, chambers of commerce. We studied 447 written submissions during this initial stage, and I found it a fascinating and instructive time for all of us who were involved.

Upon introducing this legislation, the government made substantive changes and fashioned amendments to balance the needs and interests of employers and employees. I have continued to meet with individuals and groups and we have listened to their concerns.

This past summer, the all-party standing committee on resources development scrutinized the legislation and heard submissions from more than 250 people. Once again, we responded by fine-tuning our legislation with over 50 amendments, based on what we heard at this committee stage.

Today we have a reformed law that is the product of compromise and reason. It is reform that contains the seed for a whole new era in labour-management and workplace relations in Ontario. Cooperation, contribution and partici-

pation are key to the new partnership, and Bill 40 is about making things a little better and a little more livable for working people. It's about labour and management working together to restore this great province to prosperity.

For that reason, it is deeply disturbing to see the kind of campaign that's been carried out against these reforms. It is disappointing to see advertisements that are blatantly misleading and factually incorrect. The level of rhetoric has been, frankly, surprising and unfounded. As most people know, it is far out of proportion to the true reach of these laws. It is wrong and irresponsible to turn modest labour law reform into a scapegoat for the deep economic problems that are being experienced right across the continent.

1740

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): You are being irresponsible.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: What does this kind of opposition serve? Whom does this kind of opposition serve? Not the people of Ontario and not the economy of this province. It does not form part of the constructive debate we have had on these proposals.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Parkdale.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: It sends a message to both investors and working people. It erodes confidence through the most manipulative means possible. It is truly unfortunate, because the people of this province do want to feel good about themselves and their prospects. Instead, what we have is a sternly worded, one-note campaign that does nothing to restore confidence in our economy and in the future of the province. It perpetuates the kind of antiquated mindset that this reform is designed to avoid. The old adversarial system is obsolete and it's time we all understood that. I say that to the members across the way very clearly, and I want to tell them that Ontario deserves better than what we've had up until now.

Ontario's economic success will depend to a large degree on the extent to which labour and management develop a new dialogue and bring that into the workplace in Ontario. Real cooperation between labour and management does have a positive effect on productivity. As well, there are other benefits, such as more efficient management practices, reduced turnover, better training and increased investment in new technology. These are achievements that should become the norm if Ontario is to prosper in the future. This is why updating our labour laws is just one element, along with things like the Jobs Ontario funds, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board and the \$930 million allocated to training in the government's agenda for economic recovery.

These changes to the Labour Relations Act are the culmination of 18 months of hard work, extensive consultation, drafting and redrafting, discussion, heated debate, compromise and reform. As Minister of Labour, I think we have laid the foundation for a stronger atmosphere of mutual respect in the province. It is a testimony to the spirit and the energy of the people of Ontario that we have had a

lively and constructive exchange on how to update and improve this law to fit the needs of today.

I want to tell you that I am very proud that we've taken these positive steps towards change and renewal and I am very optimistic that we can use this alchemy of energy and wisdom to forge a brand-new brand of labour-management relations in this decade. I want to say that it's time in the province of Ontario that, instead of following the line that I saw in one of the local papers not too long ago, that labour is just another commodity like a case of beer, an automobile or a refrigerator, we simply have to understand that our most valuable resource in this province is our people, is the training, is the expertise, is the knowledge they have and the contributions they can bring to the workplace.

I would hope, in spite of the disagreements we've had, that my colleagues across the way can understand that whether we've agreed or disagreed on this totally, what we now have to do in this province is to use this kind of positive direction to bring together once again workers and management and start developing a real future for the people in Ontario. We are not going to do that, I want to make it clear, with the kind of negative naysayers that we're listening to across the floor of this House today.

I think there are a majority of people in the province of Ontario who clearly understand that what we've had up till now and what has happened to our economy has not set the best example in economic terms, let alone labour-management terms, and we simply have to change that direction and start using our resources, all of our resources, and that includes our people.

I want to say very clearly that I'm proud of what we have here; I think it's going to be beneficial to the province of Ontario. I would be remiss if I did not point out that there are an awful lot of people in the ministry itself, on my own staff, who have worked exceedingly hard and exceedingly long hours through a very extensive consultation process and through some difficult times. I want to pay tribute to the people in the Ministry of Labour, to my own staff and to my colleagues and members who served on the standing committee on resources development, who also travelled the province, for the contribution they've made in bringing forward what I think is one of the real changes in the direction for the province of Ontario, Bill 40.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I'd like to respond to this stonewalling by the minister.

The Speaker: The member for Markham, as much as we all enjoy listening to your speeches, this is not the time. We have an order of the House for 5:45.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I move that the member for Northumberland now be heard.

The Speaker: You could ask for unanimous consent.

Mr Elston: I wish to bring to your attention the fact that the standing orders, which you have talked about, would allow us to go on at some length. The reason you may think that we do not have any more time is if there was a time allocation motion under the auspices of the standing orders, which talk about having two full days available for third reading debate.

Mr Speaker, I bring to your attention the following information. In accordance with the standing orders, I filed a reasoned amendment to the third reading motion moved by the member for Hamilton East. Having done that, several members have spoken in relation to the amendment of that motion, and in effect we have not yet had two days of debate on third reading.

I understand that while the question to be put at the end of the debate is really the question concerning third reading, the intervention of another piece of business means that we should have more time to debate the motion and to debate this bill.

It seems to me that the precedents are quite clear, if you look at Erskine May or others who talk about reasoned amendments, that it is under the auspices of the rules and the debate around reasoned amendments that we can choose either to speak directly to the third reading or we can choose to speak to the reasoned amendment. If there has been time consumed speaking to the reasoned amendment, as there was on the first day, in which case I spoke to it and the member for Dufferin-Peel also spoke to it, and today as well we had the member for Quinte speaking to the amendment, it really means that we have not yet had two full days of debate on third reading.

In effect, Mr Speaker, it means people have an opportunity to speak to the amendment, and you cannot shut us off in speaking to the amendment unless those people have had a full opportunity of debating what is in front of us, and that is, when the order is called, the reasoned amendment together with the motion by Mr Mackenzie.

The Speaker: I understand the argument put forward by the honourable member for Bruce, but what I must tell him is that a special order of the House was passed. In that order, it specifies—and there is no latitude for the Speaker—that at 5:45 pm on such day, this being such day, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and shall put every question etc.

What I must draw all members' attention to is that there are two items related to this which are on the order paper. Mr Mackenzie had moved Bill 40. Mr Elston, on November 4, moved a reasoned amendment. Under standing order 70, we must put first the question, "Shall this bill be now ordered for third reading?" Should that fail, then we will put the question by Mr Elston.

So the first question is, shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: I fully agree that the first question to be put is in effect the one you have said, but that can only be put, sir, in accordance with two days of full debate on third reading. There has been an amendment to the motion on the floor. People have spoken to that amendment. My point with you, sir, is that you cannot put it unless we have had two full days, two sessional days, of debate.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, I fully understand his point. Indeed, if it were not for the special order of the House, he may in fact have a valid point, but the special order of the House sets aside two days. Two days

have elapsed. I have no latitude. At this point, I must put the question.

Shall this bill be now read a third time?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. There is a 15-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1753 to 1808.

The Speaker: Would all members please be seated.

The question before the House is: Shall Bill 40 be now read a third time? Those in favour will please rise one by one.

Ayes

Abel, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Ward (Don Mills), Wark-Martyn, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Ziemba.

The Speaker: Those opposed will please rise one by one.

Nays

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Carr, Chiarelli, Conway, Cordiano, Cousens, Cunningham, Curling, Daigeler, Eddy, Elston, Eves, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Harnick, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Jordan, Kwinter, Mahoney, Mancini, Marland, McClelland, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Morin, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Poole, Ramsay, Runciman, Ruprecht, Sola, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West), Witmer.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 67, the nays 49.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The ayes being 67 and the nays 49, I declare the motion carried.

Resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, His Honour awaits to attend the Legislature to give royal assent.

1815

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT SANCTION ROYALE

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present meetings thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): The following are the titles of the bills to which your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 25, An Act to amend the Provincial Offences Act and the Highway Traffic Act in relation to Parking Infractions / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les infractions provinciales et le Code de la route en ce qui concerne les infractions de stationnement

Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui a trait à la négociation collective et à l'emploi

Bill 68, An act respecting University Foundations / Loi concernant les fondations universitaires

Bill 112, An Act to revise the Building Code Act / Loi révisant la Loi sur le code du bâtiment

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): In Her Majesty's name, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

Au nom de Sa Majesté, Son Honneur le lieutenant-gouverneur sanctionne ces projets de loi.

The Speaker: Business statement? We won't say any-one forgot. There is no business statement.

It being past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock, Monday following Monday next.

The House adjourned at 1820.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
77	3142	1	16	ing is done on an ongoing basis and that we are able and the chiefs of police themselves are able to see that the use of force, generally speaking, is appropriate to the circumstances.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités par intérim: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Larry	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pikey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Wendland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉ DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉ PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Larry O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza,
David Ramsay
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, Norm Jamison,
Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward,
Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Amott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary,
Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel
Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson,
Larry O'Connor, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan,
Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Bob Huget
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, W. Leo Jordan,
Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer,
David Turnbull, Daniel Waters, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,
Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott



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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 16 November 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 16 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 16 November 1992

The House met at 1333.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CHILD CARE

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I rise today to support the Ottawa-Carleton Child Care Association, a dedicated group in my community that represents 52 non-profit child care agencies serving approximately 4,000 children and their families, and employing 500 staff.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the Jobs Ontario Training fund will not be taking up the 20,000 spaces promised in the 1992 budget. The Minister of Community and Social Services is daily receiving requests that the eligibility criteria be broadened to include parents who are engaged in training or attempting to begin an educational program. She is also daily receiving requests from child care operators right across this province that half of those 20,000 spaces, 10,000 of them, be designated as subsidized child care spaces.

I urge this government to immediately assign half of the promised child care spaces to help shorten the waiting lists that exist in this province: 12,000 right across this province, 4,000 of those in my own community of Ottawa-Carleton.

The Minister of Community and Social Services needs to address the real needs in child care, rather than restructuring the system while existing child care spaces go unused and are wasted.

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): With me today I have a thousand hand-printed petitions from children in Unionville, Box Grove and Locust Hill, and 3,000 more petitions signed by people in my riding, plus another several thousand signatures. These people are saying the battle against the dump isn't over, and when this government comes out with its short list this week or next, the battle continues as of today.

Today we met with representatives from community action groups committed to stopping the dump. As the date for the short-listing of the dump site comes closer the anxiety grows. The unfairness of the Interim Waste Authority process becomes clearer. The question is asked over and over again: "Why us? What have we done to deserve this?" That is why representatives from all our communities in York, Durham and Peel feel it necessary to sign a declaration of protest.

"On behalf of all the residents living near the site, we believe the process used by the Interim Waste Authority to select a site is flawed and unfair. The Ministry of the Environment, by introducing Bill 143, violated our right to make our own waste management decisions. Bill 143 takes away our right to explore all alternatives in addition to landfilling, and as such we hereby pledge our continued

support to fight the IWA process and reclaim our right to be part of the solution to find, and make effective, waste management decisions."

And so the fight goes on. This is just the end of the first chapter, and when they come out with the short list, the next chapter starts. This is a gift for Ruth Grier. Maybe she'll still change her mind.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Windsor-Sandwich.

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): Mr Speaker, I'd like to warm it up a little bit, thank you.

I've heard from six wonderful students at Prince of Wales Public School at 2285 Wyandotte Street West in Windsor. They're in close contact with community leaders both at home and across the province, and they share their thoughts on International Day of Peace.

The students' names are Steph Becchini, grade 2; Trevor Dusa, grade 3; Nicole Smith, grades 5-6; Sarah Douglas grade 6; Brianna Lanspeary, grade 4; and Jason Yu, grade 4. They urge all of us to observe International Day of Peace. They would like me to spread their wonderful message to those in the Legislature today, and as well, to Ontarians watching the proceedings at home.

I promised Mr Plantus, principal of Prince of Wales, and the students that their message and their drawings would be shown to some 400,000 citizens at this very moment. I'd like to show the messages and also read the names of the six students I call the ambassadors of peace.

Steph Becchini is in grade 2, and she says: "We all want peace in our world. Families are for loving and for caring." Trevor Dusa, grade 3, says, "Please keep our world safe." Nicole Smith, from grades 5-6, a wonderful drawing, says simply, "Peace." Also, Sarah Douglas, grade 6: This is what Sarah does. Brianna Lanspeary from grade 4 says, "Stop killing and also ban guns." As well, Jason Yu is in grade 4 and Jason says, "Stop the war."

I'd like to thank all these students from Prince of Wales school at 2285 Wyandotte Street West in the riding of Windsor-Sandwich, as well as the principal, Mr Plantus.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT

Mr Charles Beer (York North): On behalf of my party, I want to recognize the start of Drug Awareness Week in Ontario.

As a society we have taken strong measures over the past several years against the use of alcohol and drugs. The Don't Drink and Drive campaign has been highly successful. As well, the use of alcohol and drugs by students and adults has decreased over the past decade. Yet while these trends are encouraging, there is one segment of the population in which things are getting worse, not better.

The area to which I refer is street youth. Use of cocaine, LSD and heroin by street youth is at least 10 times greater than rates of Ontario students. Almost half of the street

youth reported serious alcohol problems, four times the number compared to other youth.

Even more disturbing is the fact that 34% of these youth report that alcohol use in the family was a factor in their decision to leave home, while 18% report that drug use in the family was the factor.

Despite these disturbing trends, this government has virtually ignored the problem. Money spent on drug treatment has been dismally low, aimed at school-attending youth. Street youth have no access to teachers, health promotion classes, public health nurses or in-school drug prevention classes. Many do not have a family doctor or access to counselling. Yet these are the most vulnerable youth in our society, living amid an endless supply of drugs and alcohol every day.

This government must accept its responsibility and provide the much-needed funds and services to put treatment programs where these youth can access them. We need an integrated approach of identifying, treating and counselling these young people or we risk raising a generation of addicted and troubled youth.

We implore the government to give these youth a chance and provide the services that can turn their lives and our society around.

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SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME PROGRAM

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): A week ago the Minister of Community and Social Services confirmed reports that hundreds of millions of dollars will be cut from her ministry. She also stated that all programs and services will be scrutinized with an eye to cutting, or in some cases, eliminating services. The minister's strong words worry me considerably, as I am sure they worry many families who have come to depend on the special services at home program.

With the help of this program, families are able to keep their developmentally handicapped children at home instead of placing them in institutions. When the minister is considering which programs in her ministry should undergo cuts or be eliminated, she must take into account the effect these cuts will have on society's most vulnerable people, as well as the long-term cost implications of cuts in service or elimination of programs.

It is hard to describe the emotions I feel when constituents contact me on this issue. It is hard to describe the desperation in their voices. They do not want to institutionalize their children. All they're asking for is a little assistance in the home so that they can keep their children.

The financial reality is that these people are actually doing the taxpayers a service. The cost of institutionalization is much higher than the cost of help within the home. The minister will not be doing the taxpayers any favour by shortsighted, short-term cuts, when in the long run she will force families to surrender their children to institutions because they are not getting the help they need in order to keep their children at home.

I hope the minister will not slash programs across the board. She should instead attempt to prioritize programs and services according to need and cost-efficiency. If she

cannot do this, then she is not competent to be minister and the Premier should appoint another Minister of Community and Social Services.

BOWMANVILLE SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Good news. Santa Claus will be riding into Bowmanville from the North Pole this Saturday, November 21. The parade is the 31st annual non-commercial Santa Claus parade in that town. This year the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Henry Jackman, will be the parade marshal.

The theme for this year's parade is, 'Tis the Time for You to Know Who in '92. Last year's parade was a huge success with 70 entrants and this year's parade will be even bigger with the presence of His Honour being assured. This year the streets of downtown Bowmanville will be lined with children and their parents eagerly awaiting for Santa Claus to pass them by.

Entrants from across the riding of Durham East have entered groups and a number of schools will also take part in the parade. There will be horses and other live animals on parade, with at least 10 bands. This year's parade promises to be the best ever. Traditionally, on November 21 the weather is very kind to the folks in Bowmanville.

I urge everyone living within driving distance to come to Bowmanville on Saturday for a really great and joyful time. Come and feel the real spirit of Christmas in lovely downtown Bowmanville. The parade starts at 10:30 and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone, including the member from Etobicoke.

LANDFILL

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): It is a credit to the people of the Whitevale and District Residents' Association in the riding of Durham West that they are able to retain their sense of humour. This is the case notwithstanding that their lives have been sorely disrupted by the policies of the Minister of the Environment and her tactics for dumping garbage throughout the greater Toronto area. This is also despite the fact that for two months the delay in publishing the short list of candidate sites is still with us. Those sites were promised in September and we still do not know what they are.

I see that some people from this group and other individuals concerned about waste management in the GTA are here in the members' gallery today. I have in my hand an application for the Boy, Can I Pick 'Em Award contest. The rules are rather simple. The person who correctly selects the top five sites on the Durham region short list of sites will be awarded a prize. The contest of course is closed to employees and relatives of the Ministry of the Environment, the Interim Waste Authority, M.M. Dillon consultants etc.

To enter the contest, you simply send your five guesses and \$5 to the residents' association at Box 55, Whitevale. I would caution you, however, that there will be a skill-testing question: What does the IWA stand for? Here's a hint. It doesn't stand for sound policies in waste management in the province, it doesn't stand for a real solution to the

garbage crisis and hopefully it will not stand for, "It's Whitevale again."

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Last month Metro council voted to adopt a variation of market value assessment in a deal cooked up, on the fly, in the last two hours of debate. This flawed process resulted in a final plan that has had no impact studies and received neither public presentations nor scrutiny. So poor was the planning that many potentially devastating consequences were not identified or addressed.

Rail rights of way are to be hit with full market value assessment tax increases. GO Transit's share of the increased property taxes will be over \$12 million a year. Since this government is putting forward legislation to allow implementation of this flawed plan, it must take responsibility for the results.

What is the Minister of Transportation proposing GO Transit do to pay this massive tax hike—increase the cost of tickets by an estimated \$240 per passenger per year or reduce service? Or will the minister allocate an extra \$12 million each year to GO, and has the minister considered the impact of this increase on future service expansion plans?

For a government that purports to champion public transit, this is the time to put that commitment into action. I urge the government to hold public hearings so that all implications of the Metro plan can be fully aired.

GREG Curnoe

Mr David Winninger (London South): Members of the House may have heard of the untimely death on the weekend of the renowned Canadian artist, Greg Curnoe. This is a tragic loss, one that will be deeply felt not only by his family and friends but by the countless Canadians who have admired and enjoyed Greg Curnoe's work.

From the moment he first arrived on the art scene 30 years ago, Greg Curnoe made his mark. There could never be any doubt about his views on Canadian art or what he thought about the old-guard arts establishment or what he believed contemporary Canadian artists should be doing. Whatever the medium, the message came through loud and clear. It is a measure of this man's talent and eloquence that he broke through the stuffiness of the 1960s status quo and achieved recognition from every corner of Canada's art world.

Greg Curnoe believed passionately in art that was uniquely ours, art that could not be counterfeited from south of the border. He lived out that passion, making his life a political statement about the kind of art he cared about. He refused to leave his home of London, Ontario, making it the subject of much of his art and the centre for the pioneering work he did to encourage other artists.

Greg Curnoe was never afraid of controversy, and that courage, combined with his wide-ranging creativity, permeated everything he touched: his own art, the London art gallery he started up, the arts magazine he founded, even the jazz band he played in since 1965. Throughout

his career, he remained on the cutting edge of contemporary art.

Norman Bethune once said that the function of the artist is to disturb, that the artist's duty is to arouse the sleeper, to disturb the peace. In his brief but powerful life, Greg Curnoe was one such artist. Through his towering work and his actions, he was a catalyst for change. He inspired untold artists and became a valuable mentor to his younger colleagues. He will leave a huge void to fill. He was indeed a true original and will be greatly missed.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I invite all members to join me in welcoming the 11th group of pages to serve in the first session of the 35th Parliament: Marsha Barrow, Scarborough West; Ian Beith, Halton North; Liane Boyer, Renfrew North; John Burnett, York Centre; Nicole Davis-Faroque, Sudbury; Marcius Extavour, Dovercourt; Stephan Kerametlian, Mississauga East; René Lambert, Cochrane South; Daniel Liadsky, Willowdale; Beth Marlow, Northumberland; Samantha McGlone, Lincoln; Donald McKinnon, Bruce; Heather Ranson, Durham Centre; Alim Remtulla, Etobicoke-Rexdale; Ian Roberts, Leeds-Grenville; Cameron Rogers, Scarborough East; Natalie Santilli, Wentworth East; Despina Souhleris, Scarborough-Ellesmere; Karen Tellier, Essex-Kent; Alexandra Tinker, Parry Sound; Michael Townsend, Wellington; Monica Tran, York North; Ryan Tuer, Perth, and Lisa Vergeer, Elgin. Please welcome our newest pages to the chamber.

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STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

ENERGY CONSERVATION ÉCONOMIES D'ÉNERGIE

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I am pleased to rise today to tell the House about an exciting new pilot project which is being started by the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Energy through the Jobs Ontario Capital program.

Dans le cadre du programme boulot Ontario Construction, le gouvernement consacre 26 millions de dollars à des modifications éconergétiques visant le parc de logements de l'Ontario, des modifications qui permettront d'économiser de l'argent et d'élaborer de nouvelles technologies.

Under this two-year demonstration project, more than 7,000 non-profit and public housing units will be switched from electric heating to natural gas. Using renewable energy, heating with other fuels and other energy-efficiency measures will all be considered under this program.

The project combines this government's concern for the environment with our support for job creation. Energy retrofits create jobs in some of the hardest-hit sectors of our economy. They allow us to conserve energy, and the technology will develop and encourage the private sector to contribute to this program now and to expand it to the wider residential sector.

On the job front, this project will create almost 1,100 person-years of employment in Ontario in its first 18

months. Energy retrofitting is labour-intensive and it will have an impact on workers in a range of fields from design to manufacturing and construction. These retrofits are an important step in our work to conserve energy and preserve our environment. As we improve our energy efficiency, we reduce both the need to build large generating stations and our use of electricity from coal-fired generating plants.

Natural gas heating is also about two to three times less expensive than electric heating. In fact it's estimated that switching a town house from electric to gas heating can save up to \$600 per year in energy costs. There are 100,000 units of social housing using electric heating right now, so you can see that the potential for savings is significant.

Our government is already encouraging a number of programs which contribute to energy efficiency in social housing, and we're going to combine this initiative with programs such as Ontario Hydro's Lighten Up/Tighten Up program for non-profit buildings so we can maximize the results from these and other energy conservation measures.

I want to take a moment to emphasize the private sector's role in today's announcement. The information we gather and the lessons we learn from this demonstration project will be passed on to the private sector for improving and expanding the use of this technology.

We are particularly interested in high-rise apartments, where the technology is least known. We want to research and develop technology specific to high-rises so that the private sector will be able to use what we learn in its own residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

We hope that as we start to prove the technology, the private sector will contribute more and more to this project. Since this partnership is such an important part of our work, we'll be giving priority to retrofitting proposals which have a component of private sector financing. Proposals will also be reviewed on their potential for job creation and energy savings.

À long terme nous espérons que le travail que nous faisons aujourd'hui donnera lieu à une technologie mise au point en Ontario, une richesse que nous aurons créée et que nous pourrions alors exporter.

This is a project that benefits many people in many different ways. It will save money for taxpayers and tenants, create short- and long-term jobs, cut down on our use of electricity and lay down important groundwork in the fuel substitution field, groundwork that will help the private sector meet its own energy conservation needs. I look forward to seeing it in action.

MAIL SERVICE CONTRACT

Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services): I am pleased to rise today to announce the details of an agreement I have signed with Canada Post Corp on behalf of the Ontario government. This contract will save the Ontario government up to \$9 million over three years and will result in significant improvement in service to the public.

We are the first province to establish such a partnership with Canada Post. Ours will be the model for future negotiations between Canada Post and other provinces.

The contract covers letter mail, formerly known as first-class mail, that is sent out in large volumes. We have made a commitment to standardize our mail to meet Canada Post's specifications, making delivery easier, cheaper and more accurate. In return, the province will receive significant discounts on postage.

In addition to the postage discounts, the Ontario government will avoid paying penalties in the form of extra postage applied by Canada Post on mail that is oversized or addressed improperly. Saving a few cents on mailing a letter does not sound like much, but when multiplied by the 50 million pieces of large-volume letter mail that the Ontario government sends each year, those pennies add quickly into millions of dollars. It is just a part of the government's commitment to first-rate service to the public and cost-effective management of taxpayers' dollars.

This contract contains special provisions so that all Ontario government ministries, agencies, boards and commissions are eligible for savings. It replaces about 25 separate contracts that Canada Post has held with individual ministries. By combining all these departments under a single contract, the Ontario government has become Canada Post's second-largest customer, next to the federal government.

This single, consolidated contract will also be much easier and less expensive to administer than 25 separate agreements. We estimate the savings will be between \$5 million and \$9 million, but with improved efficiency of our mailing systems, the savings could go even higher.

I am proud of the role the Ministry of Government Services played in negotiating this important agreement on behalf of the Ontario government and taxpayers and I am proud to do my part in cutting government costs while improving service to the public.

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): Good news is so rare for this government that I have to offer some congratulations to the minister for making this agreement. But I do have a couple of questions: First of all, when does it take effect, and when will you sign such a contract for regular mail as well?

I would like to also question the necessity for 50 million pieces of mail going out every year. Perhaps the volume could be decreased by eliminating some of the self-serving stuff that we receive.

As well, I would like to make sure that all the ministries, agencies, boards and commissions are aware of this program and take advantage of it as soon as possible.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I would like to respond to the announcement by the Minister of Housing. On the surface, this announcement would certainly be welcome news and good news. After all, it is fostering energy conservation and energy efficiency, and that makes economic sense, it makes social sense and it makes environmental sense. So we could certainly all support that.

It also claims that it's going to create jobs, and certainly at this stage in Ontario's history, we are in desperate need of creating jobs.

Thirdly, it's a joint effort with the Ministry of Energy, and it's nice to see the Ministry of Housing consulting with the Ministry of Energy.

But that's all on the surface. Forgive me, but I doubt this government's sincerity with regard to energy conservation and, particularly, this ministry's concern with energy conservation. When we were going through the Bill 121 hearings, this minister and this ministry ensured that there were provisions in there that not only were not an incentive for energy conservation for private landlords but were an actual disincentive. Not only was it a disincentive for landlords, but it ended up in losing jobs.

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Let me give you just one example. There was an agreement in principle signed with Caterpillar and a major Japanese company. They were going to bring in energy conservation, new technology, and because the federal government had changed the regulation to allow it, the investors were able to write it off as income tax capital losses. So the landlord was not going to pay for the energy conservation, the tenants did not have to pay for the energy conservation through rent increases and the private sector was going to do this due to an initiative by the federal government. Well, what happened when these companies saw Bill 121 and the regulations in it was that they said, "Hands off; the deal is off."

It was 30,000 jobs that you cost, Madam Minister, because your ministry refused to listen to the Ministry of Energy, you refused to listen to Hydro and you did not bring in energy conservation measures to your private sector legislation. So you can talk all you want about what great things you're doing for energy conservation, but I can tell you, these 1,100 person-years of employment in Ontario will not compare to the jobs that you personally have lost because you did not put the proper measures in Bill 121.

I wonder how much of this announcement is a knee-jerk reaction because of the abysmal failure of the Jobs Ontario Training fund. We all know that was a major con job, just as the talk about 20,000 units and all the jobs for Jobs Ontario Homes were all a con job. Tell me, Madam Minister, how many jobs did you create through the Jobs Ontario Homes fund in 1992? The answer is, you didn't, and this is the same type of thing.

We're looking, in this announcement, for criteria. There are no criteria listed. We don't know how you're going to choose these units. We don't know what area of the province they're going to be in.

Madam Minister, the other thing I would say to you is that on the one hand you take away money from the low-rise rehabilitation project. Instead of putting money in there and helping in that way, you will spend \$26 million of taxpayers' money on this conservation effort. While we support the conservation effort, quite frankly, you are showing that you're just shifting from one hand over to the other. It isn't new money; you're just playing games. So in the final analysis we'll look forward, some 18 months from now, to see whether you really put your money and your action where your mouth is.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Responses, third party.

MAIL SERVICE CONTRACT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): In response to the announcement of the Minister of Government Services today, it sounded rather like a book report. I'd give him a B minus; the presentation was rather weak but the content was okay.

It is pleasing to see that the government is finally thinking about making some savings, but when you think of Canada Post and the Ontario government, perhaps the two most inefficient organizations in Canada today, conspiring to save some money, we have to start thinking that maybe there's some hope for the Treasurer yet.

I would suggest that at the same time it might be appropriate for you to start saving money by getting rid of the 1-800 NDP chat line, which is a propaganda line for this party, no doubt about it, and we have to question the idea of sending out 50,000,000 pieces of literature a year. Minister, the fact is that your government recently sent out a request to corporations that they had to refile their corporation information, which was on file with this government. Every bit of information was already on file. People were being threatened that there would be dire consequences if they didn't refile it, and they were being asked for \$50 for the privilege of refiling it. This is mail that you could have got rid of, that it wouldn't have cost anything to mail, because it shouldn't have been sent out in the first place.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): In responding to the Minister of Housing's statement, I'd like to point out that, once more, this announcement was made first in the media studio, as it was the week before last about the ballet opera house. It wasn't even made in the House at all by the Minister of Housing. She seems to feel some kind of necessity to shroud things and hide in the media studio. We find that quite interesting, as a matter of fact.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): Oh, come on.

Mrs Marland: She doesn't have any respect for the protocol that has traditionally been the mode of operation of ministers in this House, I say to the minister of northern resources, who doesn't seem to do the same thing. However, I would also like to point out to this minister that her predecessor, Mr Cooke, announced in the spring of 1991 a program to build new, energy-efficient social housing. We've heard nothing about the results of that program. Possibly it's gone the same way as the announcement of the \$1-billion Jobs Ontario Training fund, which up to now has created 675 jobs. They promised 100,000; 675 so far in November.

But I think the most ironical part of this minister's statement today is the double standard. We're happy that there is some initiative for the social housing, but it's such a contradiction from what we went through during the hearings into Bill 121, the Rent Control Act.

We actually placed amendments before the government members in that committee that would be an initiative for energy conservation in the private sector. Bear in mind that

the majority of housing in this province, thank goodness, is still in the private sector and not owned and operated and subsidized by the taxpayers of this province. This minister has two sides of her mouth and apparently she thinks energy conservation is fine on the one side but not for the operation of the majority of buildings for rental accommodation in this province. Actually, why would landlords spend any money on energy conservation when, through her legislation, the rent control bill, they can't recoup the costs of any improvements they make to their buildings in any case?

Also, we heard last week about the NDP government spending \$8.8 million to subsidize an 84-unit co-op in Ottawa which includes a communal greenhouse, solar heating, recycled water, and other energy-conserving features. This project was fast-tracked for approval and funding ahead of other applications.

We simply say, since Consumers' Gas still hasn't had a response to the correspondence it sent to the minister four months ago about Bill 121 being a disincentive to owners of rental housing who wish to convert from expensive electrical heating to more efficient natural gas heating, where are this minister's standards? She does not even reply to the supplier.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): It is time for oral questions. Point of order?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): Mr Speaker, I'd like to ask for unanimous consent to make a statement regarding the passing of the chief commissioner of the Human Rights Commission.

The Speaker: Unanimous consent? Agreed.

FRAN ENDICOTT

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I rise to speak on behalf of the Minister of Citizenship with responsibility for human rights and, of course, on behalf of the government.

It is indeed with sorrow and with a profound sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Fran Endicott, our chief commissioner of the Human Rights Commission, who passed away Tuesday, November 10. Fran Endicott was a tireless activist for social justice, a thoughtful teacher and a committed leader with vision and sensitivity. She was a consummate champion of human rights because she lived and worked for those rights.

For most of Fran's public life, she was deeply involved in education as a trustee at the Toronto Board of Education. It was at the board that I had the good fortune to work with and find a friend and ally in Fran. I quickly developed immense personal respect for Fran, which only deepened over time.

Over the years at the board, she initiated and influenced numerous programs and policies that brought the board to levels of achievement that made us all very proud to work there. Proactive anti-racist education policies are just one example. Greatly increased parent involvement was another of Fran's achievements at the board. She chaired the status of women committee, which was responsible for developing the board's sexual harassment policy. She was also immensely successful in consolidat-

ing open and effective relations among the community, the staff and the board trustees.

She brought those same talents to her work at the Human Rights Commission: a wonderful combination of imagination, vision, sensitivity, strength, a practical sense of reality and an uncompromising commitment to justice. Fran Endicott was wholly committed to human rights and gave us her tireless determination. She had strong beliefs and great hopes, and gave us reason to believe we could achieve our goals and our dreams. With her tremendous abilities and inspiration as chief commissioner, Fran set the Ontario Human Rights Commission on the course towards greater efficiency and sensitivity. Her stay was far too brief.

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She said of the commission, "Our success will depend on the degree of commitment and effort we collectively are willing to dedicate to building the best Human Rights Commission possible." She would say the same to all of us of our respect for human rights.

We miss her greatly and we grieve with her family and friends for their great loss. It is indeed a profound loss, which the province shares. I think one of the finest and most loving tributes we can pay to Fran Endicott is that we continue her work for human rights with the same vigorous spirit of dedication in which she lived.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Today, I and all my colleagues would like to pay our deep respects to Frances Endicott, the late commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, a trustee of the Toronto Board of Education, teacher and, above all, a brave and committed activist for social justice.

As a visionary leader, Fran was a champion of human rights, possessing a quiet yet determined resolve to eliminate all manifestations of inequality from our society and openly stating: "I intend to be a clear, loud, firm and maybe unpleasant advocate for human rights. Our success will depend on the degree of commitment and effort we collectively are willing to dedicate to building the best Human Rights Commission."

Fran was a strong optimist who believed in humanity. She also believed that society is capable of building a system wherein each human's worth can be respected.

I remember very vividly when she was being considered for the post of chief commissioner. She faced a legislative committee, and I was concerned that the lack of funding resources and commitment on the part of the government would impede her ambitious goals for the commission. She confidently reassured me, in her Fran Endicott style, that she could not share my pessimism and my pessimistic view as she was an ultimate optimist. She was steadfast in her endeavours, a committed leader, a people person, a genuine human being.

I'm sure she will be greatly missed by her family, friends and colleagues, and some of her best work is yet to come. We must console ourselves with the fact that her contribution to society will have an everlasting impact. Her vision will live on. It will continue to inspire those she loved, those she worked with and the community at large.

The highest respect we can pay to her memory is through our personal commitment to her ideal of creating a just and equitable society. May she rest in peace.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): On behalf of Mike Harris, the leader of our party, and the PC caucus, I too would like to share in this moment of remembering Fran Endicott, the chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, who has passed away most suddenly.

She has left a legacy of concern and love for people that goes very deep. What an ambassador she has been in the whole effort for race relations in the province of Ontario. Certainly the honourable minister would have known her on the board of education, where he served for so long, in her position and capacity of chairing many committees, including the race relations committee. She was the author of several pamphlets on race relations. She chaired the board of education's affirmative action review program and chaired the influential school programs committee. She was involved with the secondary education review group, devoting many hours to school programs, far more than anyone would realize, to help bring about social equity.

She was also an independent consultant who specialized in training large public agencies on multiracial and multicultural issues. She had expertise in issues of sexual harassment and affirmative action for women. She had recently developed a manual for anti-racist employment equity practices for school boards. All of us have lost a great supporter of equity.

I, along with our caucus, extend to her husband Giles, her brothers, sisters and stepchildren our sincere sympathy. We know the special service being held at Bloor Street United Church on November 23 will be attended by many who will not want to forget this great gift she has given. We thank God for her life and for her example.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The kind and thoughtful comments by the members for Dovercourt and Scarborough North and Markham will be sent to the family of Fran Endicott.

ORAL QUESTIONS

JOBS ONTARIO TRAINING FUND

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. We are continuing to set records in plant closures, 11% of our workforce is unemployed and now we finally have the proof that the Jobs Ontario Training program is a sham.

The Treasurer and the Premier have continually touted this \$1-billion Jobs Ontario fund as their big job program. The program has now resulted in hiring only 675 people, and yet the government still defines this as being a success.

My dictionary defines success as "the accomplishment of what was aimed at." I ask the Treasurer: Does that mean that your government now defines success as hiring 675 people in this program?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): It should be understood by the leader of the official opposition—I thought it would be—rather than

simply swallowing whole the rather outrageous headlines that were in the tabloids on the weekend and late last week, that the Jobs Ontario Training fund was a multi-year fund that was set up to be innovative for training people who were either on social assistance or whose unemployment insurance had run out.

For the leader of the official opposition to think you could be that creative, to get a program started in August—that was the beginning date of the program, not the budget date of April 30—to get an innovative, complex program like that, that's designed to get people who've been on unemployment or on social assistance, many people for a long period of time, into the workforce, to break a cycle other governments just haven't had the political will to deal with, is really a bit simplistic. I think she should be fairer-minded when it comes to assessing a program that's multi-year in nature and more complex than anything that government had the courage to try.

Mrs McLeod: I say to the Treasurer that once again we keep asking him to come clean about that budget he presented. I remind the Treasurer that we said at the time that the Jobs Ontario Training fund was not a job creation program and it could not possibly succeed. I remind the Treasurer that we said that the Jobs Ontario Training program was a program designed to train people for jobs in the private sector that didn't exist, that don't exist and that won't exist with your government's total lack of economic strategy programs.

Treasurer, I would remind you that what we were referencing—and you're saying, "Don't believe things that are too simplistic." I take your words to heart. Our reference point was your statement in your budget that this program would create 10,800 jobs in this fiscal year.

Treasurer, it seems to us that just like so many figures in your budget, whether they're the revenue figures or your deficit projections or your job growth numbers, you pulled this 10,800 figure right out of the hat. I ask you: Will you not admit that the 10,000 jobs in the Jobs Ontario Training fund that you projected in your budget was a number simply pulled out of the air like so many of the other figures in that budget?

Hon Mr Laughren: I don't need a lecture on pulling numbers out of the air from a party that raised flim-flam to an art form. I don't need any lessons from you in creating jobs or in manipulating numbers. That's absolutely outrageous.

I do believe that the numbers that were laid out in the budget are accurate numbers. Whether or not they are all achieved by the April 30, 1993, date is a question that's open for debate, because it is a complex, innovative program. The Leader of the Opposition may be correct that we will not achieve the full number by April 1993, but the fact remains that it's a good program, it's an innovative program and, for the first time in the history of this province, this government is attempting to address the unemployment problem of people on social assistance or whose unemployment insurance has run out that will be a long-run benefit to the people of this province and the people on unemployment insurance or social assistance, not the traditional

make-work projects that the opposition has had for many, many years.

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Mrs McLeod: Treasurer, the unemployed people of this province don't need either empty words or your phoney attempts at a defensive attack. The fact remains that your program has seen 675 people hired. That is a fraction of the number of people who lose their jobs every week under this government. At the pace you're going, your program is going to reach 100,000 people in 25 years. I suggest that the unemployed people of this province shouldn't have to wait that long to see some results from a program that this government is bungling.

Treasurer, I would suggest to you also that even those very few people who might be eligible for your program can't figure out how to access it. The calls to the ministry aren't being returned. In Toronto nothing is happening because the contracts with the brokers haven't been signed. People are being stuck in training courses that don't fit their needs.

I simply ask, will you not, now that it is clear that the Jobs Ontario Training fund is a complete failure, just go back to the drawing board and design a program that will actually work to secure jobs and get people back to work again?

Hon Mr Laughren: I and this government remain convinced that this is the right way to go: to put in place proper training programs so that as the economic recovery occurs people will be trained for the jobs that will become available. Surely the leader of the official opposition understands that it takes time to work out agreements between the brokers in all the communities across this province, employers, who are an essential part of this program, and individuals who want to access the program.

The leader of the official opposition may or may not have noticed some ads that are in the paper today that spell out some of the details on how to access the program, but it's not fair for her to imply that this program, after starting up in August, now can be written off as a failure. That's outrageous.

I wish the leader of the official opposition would do what she promised she was going to do when she became leader of the official opposition: not simply carp and complain, but lay forth alternatives as part of her job.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question.

Mrs McLeod: Mr Speaker, if I were to pursue the Treasurer's comments, I would point out the fact that he talks about the jobs that will be available. That is exactly our point: They aren't available.

MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question, however, is to the Attorney General. I have written to the Premier asking him to clarify his response to some very serious allegations that have been made about the former Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I believe that the matter is too important to wait for his return from Asia, although I would prefer to be able to place these questions directly to the Premier himself.

We're all familiar with the various reports that prompted the resignation of the former minister of tourism. I would ask the Attorney General if he would clarify exactly what has transpired to date. Will you provide us with a precise chronology, tell us the specific allegations that have been made, the incidents that have occurred, the Premier's instructions to you and the exact nature of the investigations currently under way?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Mr Speaker, I—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: The Leader of the Opposition—
Interjections.

Hon Mr Hampton: Mr Speaker, when the opposition allows me, I'll try to answer the question.

The Speaker: Supplementary.

Interjection: He hasn't answered this question.

The Speaker: There was some distraction from the end of the chamber. I'm sorry; in concentrating on the disturbance I did not hear the response from the Attorney General. Could he repeat the response for me?

Hon Mr Hampton: I said, Mr Speaker, that when the opposition allows, I'll try to answer the question.

The Leader of the Opposition in fact asked a number of questions. What I can tell her at this time is that some information was given to the OPP. My understanding—and I ask you to note that I have not received a full briefing or a report from the OPP on this—is that some of that material was not firsthand and may in fact have been third-hand and fourth-hand. That information was relayed to the Ontario Provincial Police. The Ontario Provincial Police conducted an investigation into that information, but I have not received a report from the Ontario Provincial Police at this point in time.

Mrs McLeod: The Attorney General, as the law officer of the executive council, is charged with ensuring that the administration of public affairs is in accordance with the law. I would suggest that it's the responsibility of the Attorney General to advise the government and to superintend all matters of a legislative nature. That is the duty of the Attorney General.

I would ask the Attorney General that, given the earlier reports of possible impropriety, the fact that there was, as you've just indicated, an investigation that took place, and given your duty as Attorney General to advise the government and to ensure that all legislation, including the Members' Conflict of Interest Act, is properly enforced, would it not have been your responsibility to recommend to the Premier that this minister step aside as soon as the investigation began, which was before this matter became public? Did you in fact do that?

Hon Mr Hampton: Implicit in the Leader of the Opposition's question is the assumption that information, which may come from where we know not and may come third or fourth hand, should immediately result in someone counselling the Premier or counselling other members of the executive council about the potential for an error in

terms of conflict of interest or the potential for some other type of breach.

I want to say very clearly to the Leader of the Opposition that the only information I was aware of was information that had been communicated—and we did not know if it was second-hand information, third-hand information or fourth-hand information—to the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate, to determine the veracity of that information.

Mrs McLeod: I asked the questions simply because it seems clear from the Attorney General's comments, and seems confirming of some of the reports that have been in the media, that there was at least sufficient concern to warrant an investigation at an earlier stage.

I say with very real concern that we have had, over the past while, some serious concerns about other issues with the way in which the government may withhold information. I would specifically reference the fact that the Attorney General seems to be determined to suppress the report on sexual abuse at the Grandview detention centre, even though the freedom of information commissioner has ordered its release and even though this information would be of great value to the many women who endured the abuse.

We want to raise the question of how much information from the current investigation will in fact be released. I will ask it as a question simply of the Attorney General, whose decision on release of the investigative report it will be. Will the Attorney General assure us that no information stemming from this investigation will be suppressed? Will the Attorney General advise us then exactly what information will be made available about the situation so that the public can judge the Premier's standards, or lack thereof, for themselves?

Hon Mr Hampton: Ordinarily I listen with great care to the questions that the Leader of the Opposition puts forward. I usually find them fair questions, but the Leader of the Opposition tries to imply that the government is suppressing a report with respect to Grandview. Let me deal with that first.

There is a very serious criminal investigation going on with respect to the Grandview centre. The Ontario Provincial Police and the Waterloo Regional Police want time to look at all of those records so they do not jeopardize any type of further investigation or jeopardize the laying of any charges. That is not the suppression of a report; that is what you call good investigation by responsible police officers.

For the Leader of the Opposition to say that someone is suppressing something is completely irresponsible and I would say amounts to trying to achieve cheap headlines at the expense of those victims from Grandview.

Let me deal with the second issue. The Ontario Provincial Police may conduct thousands of investigations every year in the province of Ontario. They conduct those investigations sometimes on the basis of firsthand information, sometimes on the basis of thirdhand information, sometimes on the basis of complete hearsay information. The Ontario Provincial Police will make the decision whether

or not it wants to release its investigation report. That is not up to me.

The Ontario Provincial Police will come forward and say whether or not it thinks charges should be laid. If we get into this discussion about the OPP issuing every report it has ever investigated, that leads to irresponsibility as well.

1430

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Treasurer. In the week and a half since Bob Rae left for Japan and the Far East, where he has been criticizing Ontario businesses, we got a series of shocking revelations about what you have done to Ontario's economy. Business closures are up, bankruptcies have increased, welfare rolls have swelled and unemployment has increased. Treasurer, whatever it is you're doing or whatever it is you think you are doing, it's obviously not working.

You've had now a 10-day break from the Legislature. Your Premier's been away. You haven't had to answer his questions every day. Will you today admit that we need a major mid-term correction, that whatever it is you're doing is not working, that we need a new plan?

Given that I'm sure you agree with all of the above, why is it we don't have that new plan today? Since we don't have it today, can we expect it this week or next week or surely before Christmas? Will you give us a time frame for the new plan?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): May I welcome the member back to the Legislature after his 10-day absence, and welcome the Prime Minister back from Florida at the same time.

I want to let the leader of the third party in on something that just came across the wire today, I believe, that comes from Osaka, Japan, where the Premier was attending a luncheon. After the luncheon, the Kubota—

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): He has resigned. Tell us. It is good news.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Laughren: If the members don't want to hear the good news, then I don't have to give it. The Kubota corporation of Osaka, a maker of agricultural and construction machinery, announced a \$10-million plan to expand its operations in Ontario. I think that's good news. I didn't hear the Prime Minister come back from Florida with news as good as that. He came back and announced that federal policies were a failure. I think there's a big difference between the way the Premier of this province is performing and the way the leader of the country as a whole is performing.

There is a lot of good news in the province of Ontario. I don't expect the leader of the third party to acknowledge it, because just in a couple of short years he has slipped into an opposition mindset.

Mr Harris: Of course, Treasurer, there is some good news. It's not all doom and gloom. The problem is that the bad news outweighs the good news by 500 jobs a day. That's the problem. Obviously, the plan is not working.

We found out last week what a sham your Jobs Ontario Training fund has been. You told us you would create 10,800 jobs by the end of this fiscal year. I think you were being very conservative. It was to be 100,000 jobs over three years, and you set your goal for the first year very low, I assume because you would have startup times. Now you admit you have only created 675 jobs in the first six months.

You will now have to create 75 new jobs every single day from now to the end of the fiscal year to meet the target. Given that we are losing 500 jobs every single day—that's the track record for the first six months—would you admit today that you cannot possibly create 75 new jobs each and every day in the province of Ontario?

Hon Mr Laughren: There is no question that the economic recovery has presented challenges to this jurisdiction, as to all others in North America and elsewhere around the world, that were not anticipated last year or even earlier this year. So there's no question that's going to be very, very difficult. I acknowledge that.

On the Jobs Ontario question, I don't want to repeat what I said to the leader of the official opposition, but surely you would acknowledge that putting in place a training program that involves the private sector, that involves pre-employment training, that involves credits to the private sector and also day care spaces for people who need assistance to get back into the workforce, is complex and innovative, and that those things don't happen overnight.

Finally, that program didn't start until the month of August and here we are in mid-November. I think the leader of the third party is not being very realistic when he assumes that all of this should happen with the snap of one finger. That doesn't happen in this complex world in which we live.

Mr Harris: By way of final supplementary to the Treasurer, it surely must be obvious to you, as it is to virtually everybody else in the province, that whatever it is you're doing is not working, and that what I have been saying all along is quite true: that government cannot create jobs on its own, that the taxes you have to raise or the money you have to borrow to create these jobs on your own destroys more jobs than you create.

That's why your net is 500 lost jobs every day. You're destroying more than you could possibly create by trying to create them on your own. The evidence shows that every day you've been in office: Every day you come back and try to spend some more money, you make more announcements that you are going to spend more money to create more jobs, and every day the results come back that you have lost more.

Treasurer, it must be obvious that a new direction is required, that a midcourse correction has to be made, and I would ask you to consider this: Will you take whatever is left from your failed billion-dollar Jobs Ontario Training sham and cut a billion dollars in taxes so we can put money into the hands of those who truly can create jobs in this province?

Hon Mr Laughren: I really believe that flowing from the leader of the third party's question are two assumptions: One, that he doesn't give a sweet hoot about the deficit in this province; two, despite all evidence—

Mr Harris: I didn't say spend an extra nickel. I said quit doing what is not working and start doing something that will work.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: —to the contrary, that the leader of the third party is locked into some kind of Reaganite time warp, in which he believes that supply-side economics works.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Not even Ronnie could lose 500 jobs a day.

Hon Mr Laughren: Well, I can tell you something, Mr Speaker, with that kind of thinking, where you cut taxes that largely benefit the rich, the deficit tripled in the United States in eight years.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: Mr Speaker, I will try to respond, but the leader of the third party surely would not deny that the Reagan plan was to cut taxes in order to stimulate investment. That's exactly what this leader is saying. That was the Reaganite plan. It didn't work. The deficit tripled in the United States. No, thank you; we are not buying Reaganomics in this province.

1440

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, as you will remember, about two weeks ago, Mr Bill Cameron of the CBC conducted an in-depth series on the state of Ontario's education system. On Friday, November 6, specifically, he asked you when—"when" meaning at what grade level—his children who are currently in elementary school should be able to write a paragraph with proper sentence structure, grammar and spelling.

It's my understanding from looking at the tape, Mr Minister, that you weren't able to respond to that question, and I'm going to ask you if you will respond today.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I would have thought that if the member was going to ask that question, she would have actually given an indication of the full answer that I gave, which was that I couldn't answer the question on the spot in terms of at what particular point in time. But what I said also in answer to the question was, first of all, that it was the kind of question that needed to be able to be answered and would be answered through the Benchmarks process.

Secondly, I think I also indicated more specifically to him that clearly somewhere in the elementary years we ought to be able to indicate very clearly to parents and to people in the system at which point those kinds of levels should be achievable by all our students. So I was simply answering the specific question as frankly and directly as I could, which was that I didn't have the answer to this

specific question of the paragraph, but I certainly agreed then and agree now that that's exactly the kind of sense we need to be able to give to our school system and particularly to our parents, to be able to know what they can expect from the school system.

Mrs Cunningham: I think if the minister had gone home and asked one of his children, he would very quickly have found out what the answer is to the question today. But I think the big problem in education is that parents are advising us, and teachers and educators across the province—they can continue to voice their concern because they don't know when their children are to master certain knowledge and skills, and obviously we have a parent across from us who doesn't know either. They are repeatedly asking us, grade by grade, subject by subject, for a specified, defined curriculum with standards.

In the most recent document that was released by the minister with regard to another common curriculum, they talk about mathematical skills and understanding, and I'll read it to you, "Mathematics is used in many disciplines and areas of life." You want to talk about technological knowledge and skills? "All societies and cultures have used technology to improve the quality of life."

I just have to say to the minister that that's not what parents are looking for. I'm going to ask him when he's going to release a document that will define core curriculum by grade level, by subject, with specific learning outcomes or testing involved. When will this be released?

Hon Mr Silipo: Let me first of all say that as proud as I am of my four-and-a-half-year-old, I don't think I could expect him to answer the question that the member suggested he could answer.

Let me say also to her that I think she touches, first of all, on an important area and one which I think she's heard my comments on before. But I also want to say to her that she ought to realize that the kinds of problems we're having in our school system are not ones that have been around in the last year or two. The same issues that we're trying to grapple with, quite frankly, could have been grappled with by the previous government. They could have been grappled with by that government over there.

If there is today a lack of sense about the kinds of standards that we should have in our school system, don't look across the floor to blame us for that. We are trying, because we understand that there is that need, to be very clear with people in the system and with parents about what we can be achieving and what we should be achieving, and we will be doing that.

As I think I've indicated, we already have put out in school systems the initial draft of the math Benchmarks. We are going to be proceeding throughout the year with draft Benchmarks in the language areas, and all of that is geared towards establishing those very clear standards of achievement that we want for our students throughout the various grades.

Mrs Cunningham: I would suggest that the minister is sounding like an old Progressive Conservative rather than a New Democrat, and he ought to bring himself up to date on what's happening in Ontario.

It's been some decade since we've had a review of our curriculum. We've had an opportunity to look at it and it hasn't been working. I would be the first one to say it hasn't been working for a decade. He's had every opportunity in opposition to bring his suggestions forward, and his colleagues to bring their suggestions forward, to the government, as we did to the Liberals, and to take up what the Treasurer talked about today in bringing specifics forward.

We have, and I'm sure the minister has read it, A Blueprint For Learning in Ontario, where we suggest how to proceed by saying:

"Government, teachers and communities need to work together to establish clear goals for the school system and give priority to the core subjects. A core curriculum, setting out benchmarks and standards for achievement for each grade level, should be developed"—and I think the key is here—"by the Minister of Education, working with both parents and teachers."

Since the minister last answered my question on November 2, saying they wouldn't be involved, I would like him to explain that today. We need this curriculum to be set out and we need public input by parents and teachers. My question is, will you be involving parents and teachers and the public in a very big way in a discussion with regard to your new curriculum, core curriculum with testing, yes or no?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Minister?

Hon Mr Silipo: Yes, Mr Speaker.

WASTE REDUCTION

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I have a question for the minister who, for the past two years, has created a crisis and chaos of the highest proportion right through the greater Toronto area in her mismanagement of the garbage issue. I have a question for the minister who, we find out today, is a co-conspirator, along with Metropolitan Toronto, in the unauthorized expansion of the Brock West landfill site. I have a question for the Minister of the Environment about her misstatements of her waste reduction achievements made to the people of Ontario.

I say to the minister that her target was to reduce waste by 25% in absolute terms by the end of 1992. On October 8 the minister told the Recycling Council of Ontario that, and I'm quoting, "Statistics for the first six months of the year show a 21% per capita reduction in waste."

Absolute numbers are important in this matter because they are needed to predict landfill capacity. The minister has changed the arithmetic and decided, because of the failure of her waste reduction program—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the member place a question, please.

Mr Sorbara: —to begin to quote waste reduction numbers in terms of per capita waste reduction and not absolute reduction and the 25% target that she herself set for the province of Ontario.

Can the minister simply tell us why she is now measuring waste reduction in per capita terms rather than in absolute terms?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): The target of a 25% reduction—let me share the glory and the credit—was a target established by my predecessor. The difference was that I put in place a waste reduction action plan to make sure we had some programs and some policies that would take us forward to in fact reach the target.

One of the difficulties in establishing whether or not we could get to the target was how to measure the target. There was certainly no history of accurate measurement and no basis upon which one could draw comparisons between one year's reduction and another's. The generally agreed-upon way of measuring achievement towards that target was a per capita generation of waste on a base year of 1987. I'm quite confident that our achievement of 21% in the first six months of this year will allow us to achieve the 25% reduction by the end of 1992.

Mr Sorbara: The minister's response is almost completely incredible. She was right to pay credit to the former Minister of the Environment, the member for St Catharines, because he did set a target, and that target was an absolute reduction of 25% of the waste flowing to landfill sites in Ontario. The damage began when the current Minister of the Environment took charge of the problem. She has failed miserably to meet the targets she set.

What she has done, instead of acknowledging the problem and changing her plans and abandoning the principles upon which she has been operating, is she has changed the arithmetic. She says: "We will no longer try and achieve a 25% reduction. We'll achieve 21% per capita." As the population grows the waste reduction is actually reduced, so that now what we're really getting at is a 13% reduction under her direction. That's a far cry from the very targets that she set for herself.

Will the minister simply tell us why, without any announcement, without any highlighting, without any underlining, she changed the arithmetic and dramatically changed her projections for waste reductions in the province of Ontario?

1450

Hon Mrs Grier: We can argue per capita, we can argue tons, we can argue tonnes, but let me remind the member of the facts.

The first fact is that this government passed a Waste Management Act, the first in the province. The second fact is that the discussion papers upon which regulations will be based about how to implement that Waste Management Act are nearing completion and the regulations will be released later this year. The third fact is that in 1992 more than 75% of the households in this province are participating in the blue box program.

The fourth fact is that more than 800,000 households are doing composting in their backyards, and 7 out of 10 companies in this province have embarked on waste reduction programs. I was at one of those in downtown Toronto today that has achieved an 80% reduction of waste in an office building in the centre of Metro with 1,000 employ-

ees. That's what Bell Canada has done. Many others are following them.

The member can argue numbers. I'm interested in results. Our waste reduction action plan is in place and is working.

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This Minister of the Environment has all but lost her credibility when she moves the goalposts and changes the rules. The same thing is now true with the Interim Waste Authority, which any day from now will be coming up with its short list from the 57 sites in York, Durham and Peel, the landfill sites that will be looked at in greater detail, sites which could have easily have been pulled out of a hat. After all the criteria that were used, it was just a sham and waste of money. Yet not one cent has been spent on looking at the alternatives to landfill such as rail haul.

My question to you, Mrs Grier, is, are you prepared to put on hold the short-listing of sites until all the alternatives have been reviewed?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): The process that the Interim Waste Authority has followed in trying to find three landfill sites for the greater Toronto area is quite the reverse of pulling sites out of a hat. That was how the parties opposite made those decisions.

As a result of the fair and very open process the Interim Waste Authority has been following, there are now 57 communities very concerned about that. I understand that. They have shared with me their concern. Before the end of this month the Interim Waste Authority will be in a position to significantly reduce that list from 57. To suggest that we prolong the uncertainty and continue the apprehension in 57 communities is completely irresponsible. The response to the member's question is no.

Mr Cousens: That's rehashed trash. That's all your answer is. Today I met with representatives from communities that you plan to destroy. They're angry and they're frustrated with your lack of compassion, with your ignorance and your self-righteousness in determining their future. This dump is destroying community life. You're destroying farm land, property values and the wellbeing of people in these dumped-on communities. You've not been fair with them or the people of Ontario.

You refused to look at alternatives. You refused to visit the sites. You refused to speak at the demonstrations. You refused to visit the Adams mine site in Kirkland Lake. You refused to meet with the mayor of Kirkland Lake. You refused to listen. I say, I refuse to ask you any more questions on this today.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): There was a lack of interrogative in there, I detect. New question.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): The soft approach, Mr Speaker.

HOUSING POLICY

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): My question is to the Minister of Housing and it's in relation to the wellbeing of the MTHA tenants in Metro. I certainly would like to find out a little more about a particular policy

MTHA has chosen to change, a policy I commend. However, there is a particular area in that change I'm concerned about with the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority, that being the recent change to its contractor rotation list policy.

Madam Minister, I hear that the selection process has changed. I also hear that the key qualified MTHA managers we have chosen to use a method I don't particularly agree with, and that is to pick contractors out of a hat. I guess the question is—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Mammoliti: Madam Minister, is this true? Is the new policy to pick our contractors out of a hat?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): The member is correct in saying that there has been a change of policy in the contractor rotation program at MTHA. This was the result of some careful study in the program MTHA has been following to improve the quality of maintenance at MTHA. They announced their new policy in April 1992. It was reviewed by the board and passed then.

Essentially what is happening is that for each area of the MTHA communities, work is assessed and contractors in various fields of specialty will be chosen to be put on a rotation list. But these contractors are fully qualified contractors. Their previous work is reviewed or their referrals are reviewed, and they have to be able to provide the kind of information all of us would want to assure ourselves of when they are doing work. They are chosen according to the volume of work required, and only if there is no other way to choose among contractors for selection for work is there in fact a kind of lottery system for choosing who will be assigned.

Mr Mammoliti: Madam Minister, I don't have a problem with the changes per se, except the picking out of a hat. I know contractors have to be qualified. I know that in terms of how you base your decisions, you have to take into consideration the previous history, the response time and the reputation of the contractor. My problem is picking out of a hat.

Is this how we've chosen to manage, by picking out of a hat? Don't you think the repercussions will be negative if you choose a particular contractor that isn't familiar with a particular area? Don't you think the tenants will suffer ultimately?

Hon Ms Gigantes: No, I don't believe that is the case. First of all, the work that is involved is about \$9 million worth of work in a year for MTHA, and the interest in getting that work among contractors has risen significantly over the last few years because of the very difficult times the construction, particularly the residential construction, industry is going through.

What we have is a situation where there's a multiple number of contractors applying for work, all of whom are equally qualified, and I think it's probably the fairest way in the end, when you have the qualified people available, to put them on a rotation list. Then, if you have to choose by a lottery kind of choice, that's probably the fairest way to do it.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I'm not surprised to hear the minister suggest another lottery as a way of solving problems here.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the government House leader, since we have had the resignation of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I believe that portfolio is now taken on by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, but perhaps he's not had a chance to get up to date, so I'll go to the government House leader.

On November 3 I raised a question to the Premier in this House regarding the Pro Line Sport Select lottery and I expressed concerns, which seemed at that time to be shared by members on all sides of the House, about our young people having access to this gambling game in the corner stores in all their communities where this game was introduced. There seemed to be some sympathy and some interest. On November 4, the next day, I introduced a private member's bill.

Since that time, we've had two weekends go by. We've had dozens of football games. We've had a couple of Monday night NFL games, another one tonight, lots of NHL games, CFL playoff games, with thousands and thousands of dollars spent by our young people gambling on this lottery, and I can't get this government to move.

I've asked the House leader if he would bring the private member's bill which got first reading back into this place for unanimous consent for second and third readings. Government House leader, will you do that today?

1500

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I have been discussing this matter with the member and I told him that we were working with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation in looking at his suggestion. The idea is being examined. As soon as we have a final answer for him, and I expect it this week, we'll report back to him.

Actually, we're looking at other private members' bills too from all three caucuses, because I think we should take private members' bills very seriously.

Mr Mahoney: That answer is exactly what I was afraid of. What this minister is doing is trying to use this bill and the very serious problem as a poker chip in setting his agenda in this Legislature.

That's not acceptable. This is an issue that every major newspaper in the province has called for the government to act on. We have resolutions from the city of Etobicoke and the city of Mississauga that have been circulated to AMO. We have parents in this province who are demanding action. As far as I can tell, because I've yet to hear a dissenting opinion, we have unanimous consent available in this Legislature to pass Bill 92, a bill that says it will amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act to make it illegal to sell lottery tickets to young people under the age of 18.

What in the world is the problem? I know you've got scandals. I know your government is coming apart at the

seams, but that is not the issue. The issue is to get the kids to stop gambling. You have a chance to act on this. If you want to take my bill and write it in your name, I will be happy to withdraw my bill and support a government bill, if your ego is such that this is what needs to be done.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member conclude his question, please.

Mr Mahoney: I am demanding and the people of this province are demanding, we want action on this. Bring Bill 92 or a replacement bill into this place for unanimous consent for second and third readings immediately. Will you do that, Minister?

Hon Mr Cooke: I'm surprised to hear this member talk about anybody else's ego.

I told the member that we're looking at it seriously. I wouldn't exaggerate the problem. The member wants to exaggerate the problem. The ministry's had approximately six complaints. But we agree with the concern of the member and we're looking at the specific bill he's presented to the House. As soon as I have a reply for him—I expect it this week—I will give it to him personally.

MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES EMPLOYEES

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. I'm quoting a comment from Mr Ross McClellan in the Toronto Star last week in relation to the former Minister of Tourism and Recreation: "We don't want to be in a situation where cabinet ministers can be forced to resign because of rumours."

I want to indicate before I proceed with this question that we in this party certainly agree with Mr McClellan's position in that respect. I want to say that we also believe this should apply to senior civil servants, who have been treated quite differently within your ministry.

I want to pose a couple of questions in respect to individual employees within the ministry of corrections. The superintendent of the Chatham jail, back in August of this year, was suspended based on a harassment charge lodged by the union with allegations that apparently an incident occurred some 11 years ago. The alleged victim has not come forward and is not prepared to come forward. These allegations are being pushed by the union. That individual, the superintendent of the Chatham jail, has been on suspension since August. His family is undergoing a great deal of stress, as you can appreciate, Minister, as well as the individual himself. How can you justify the treatment of this individual in the way you're handling this situation?

Hon David Christopherson (Minister of Correctional Services): The issue the member refers to, to the best of my knowledge, is still under investigation. It has been the policy of the ministry, where there have been allegations of this nature and where it's deemed appropriate, that people have been transferred to other locations for the protection of and in the interests of all concerned. I believe this is consistent with that, and to speak further at this point would be inappropriate.

Mr Runciman: It really doesn't deal with my question at all. I was talking about a double standard here, the fact that we agree with Mr McClellan's position in respect to these sorts of suspensions, if you will, and the removal of an individual from cabinet. I'm asking you about a similar, comparable situation where a senior individual has been removed.

I have another one. This is a prominent man, an individual who many of us on this side of the House have known for years as a very outstanding civil servant, Mr Sidney Shoom, the regional director of corrections for the eastern region. Apparently, a phone call was made and a complaint lodged against Mr Shoom of workplace harassment. This was a phone call, nothing in writing. Mr Shoom's lawyer can get none of the details about this accusation.

This is another man, a prominent man, within the civil service at a significant senior management level who has been suspended for some period of time now without any answers. Certainly, you can come up with some sort of response that's more satisfactory to the individuals involved and in keeping with Mr McClellan's comment of last week.

Hon Mr Christopherson: It's my responsibility to answer for the policies and actions within my ministry and that's the scope in which I have to answer the questions. I would say to the member that there have been a number of allegations. Certainly, the honourable member across the way would know as well as anyone in this House the importance of these kinds of allegations, the importance of these kinds of issues, and in fact he made a particularly strong case some months ago that indeed this ministry and the entire government deal adequately and appropriately with these kinds of issues.

There have been allegations made in a number of locations, and where it's been appropriate, staff members at all levels in different cases have been reassigned, pending the outcome of an investigation. I think that's the appropriate kind of action, and I would stand behind it. When the answers are available, when the investigations are completed, I would be glad to give the member, as well as everyone else, those findings.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I have a question for the Minister of Education. The taxpayers of Durham region, in my area and in Oshawa and Whitby, are very concerned about innumerable reports in the paper about rises in costs, about additional services, about \$46 million for an education centre.

Also, there has been a great deal of concern raised by the board of education about, of course, the junior kindergarten program, the public school in Durham being one of the few areas without a junior kindergarten program in the province. There has been a statement—this letter I received this morning—of \$12 million, and in another paragraph it was \$7.2 million, in terms of the needs of that program, the cost of the startup. We want to know what that program will cost, if there is any estimate that you have, and how those kinds of arrangements can be made

with the school board in Durham to mediate the concerns that the taxpayers of Durham region have.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I am not able to tell the member the exact cost that obviously a school board in Durham would have to implement junior kindergarten. What I can say to him, however, is that there are funds and grants available from the Ministry of Education to that board and indeed to other boards, both for capital needs in the range of \$100 million that has been made available between 1990 and 1994 that boards can apply for the building of additional facilities for the implementation of junior kindergarten and, in addition to that, there are incentive grants available for the purchase of large-scale learning equipment on the basis of about \$3,000 per classroom.

Of course, once the program starts—that is, once the junior kindergarten program is implemented—then the enrolment in those programs, the students in those programs are calculated for grant purposes in the normal way that grants would flow to the school board. The degree of those grants would obviously then be based on the school board's level of property tax assessment, and all of the other normal factors would then come into play.

1510

Mr White: Thank you for those considerations, Mr Minister.

I understand the \$46 million being spent on the education centre, some \$26 million of that is entirely out of the tax base in Durham. I'm wondering as well, though, about the cost of that implementation. Is your ministry going to be talking with the Durham board to ensure that those costs are as efficiently arrived at as possible; that the least possible costs are borne on a short-term basis?

Hon Mr Silipo: If the member was asking specifically about the issue of the education centre, I can say to him that there are no provincial grants available for that. That is an issue clearly in the hands of the school board.

With respect to the issue of implementation of junior kindergarten, I know the Durham board is one of the boards that's been considering and talking with us about alternative ways of implementing the junior kindergarten initiative and we've indicated that we're quite open to looking at those proposals. I've talked, I think, in this Legislature in the past about the proposal from the Grey county board, and I know the Durham board is looking at some alternatives we would be delighted to continue pursuing with them. As I say, we remain open to looking at alternative ways of implementing this important initiative.

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): My question is for the Solicitor General. The Solicitor General has released draft standards of the reports that police will have to file as a result of his unholstering regulation. According to the Solicitor General, these standards make it clear that a report should be used to improve police training and not for disciplinary or other purposes. I listened to the Solicitor General today on CBC Radio Noon and I'm still not clear.

My question to the Solicitor General is quite straightforward: Will the Solicitor General amend the current regulations so they reflect the commitments he has made to the police officers in the province, and why will the Solicitor General not simply include the provisions outlined in the standards in the actual regulations?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): As I indicated with my meeting last week with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and the Police Association of Ontario, I would have police services division, in writing, send a directive to every chief of police and every police services board in Ontario indicating that the reports would not be used for discipline. If it is possible—and I am having ministry staff review it now—to do that by way of regulation that will not complicate or delay the matter, I'm quite prepared to do that as well.

Mr Curling: He knows quite well he hasn't got to go through that procedure. He just has to say that and it can be done.

Last week the Solicitor General distributed a press release which stated he had heard the police and responded to their concerns. Quite clearly, police officers across the province, as you know, do not believe you have heard a thing they have been saying, and the job actions continue. Both Bob Morrison of the Police Association of Ontario and Art Lymer of the metropolitan association have apparently described their meeting with you as just a waste of time. Indeed, many people find it curious that your response could be distributed before the meeting had even been concluded.

Many important issues, such as occupational health and safety concerns, that have been raised by the police remain unaddressed. Police officers have asked for an inquiry or public hearing on these important issues.

My question to the Solicitor General: Will you take that small step to help bridge the gap that has developed between your government and the police? Will you call for an independent inquiry into policing issues in this province?

Hon Mr Pilkey: First of all, just a correction in the information that someone has improperly supplied the member opposite: My statement was not distributed to the media or the public in advance of its being presented to those in the room itself.

Secondly, we will go beyond taking a small step to make people understand the reasonableness of the report. We made a rather large step in that we have guaranteed that these reports will not be used for discipline. We've indicated they need not even be in an officer's personnel file, but rather they can be within the use-of-force file. We will limit the retention with respect to the report to only two or three years, not for the lifetime of the officer's career.

We have also included them in any major consultation on any changes with respect to police policies and also guaranteed them access to the government on any legislative amendments in 1993 with respect to the special investigations unit and the police complaints commission.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I'd like to ask the Minister of Housing a question concerning her Jobs Ontario Capital announcement today. Madam Minister, you indicate that \$26 million will create 1,100 person-years of work. I just got off the phone with a contractor to give me a ballpark figure on how much would be spent on capital and how much would be spent on wages on a conversion of standard units from electricity to, let's say, gas. The answer was 60-40, very labour-intensive, if it was base-board heating, about 40-60 the other way if it was forced-air electric heating, and on average about 50%.

Given those figures, and let's say the average for wages is 50%—that's assuming there's no other program costs, and I assume there would be some, engineering and technical aspects—let's be very generous then and suggest that there might be \$13 million available for wages. That works out to under \$12,000 a year per person-year of work.

I wonder if you could tell me, have you overinflated the number of jobs by three or four times? Do you plan to boycott all the union shops? Could you tell me, are the figures inflated for jobs, or who is it you plan to hire for less than \$12,000 a year to install these new furnaces?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I'm delighted to have this kind of question from the leader of the Conservative Party. It's certainly the first time any member of this government has been accused of doing things too cheaply, so I will undertake to give him whatever details we can provide through the ministry as quickly as we can. I would hope that I would have those answers for him by tomorrow.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired.

PETITIONS

POST-POLIO SYNDROME

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): I have a petition signed by some 80 constituents of my riding and of the greater Ottawa area. The petition has several "whereases," which I will not read. However, I will read the petition itself. It says,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to establish a post-polio clinic in the Rehabilitation Centre of Ottawa-Carleton for the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients and to disseminate information so that the estimated 1,000 known polio survivors in the centre's catchment area can receive adequate treatment and that the medical profession be educated regarding the post-polio syndrome."

I've signed this petition.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Today I'm introducing a petition from a number of citizens in my riding, from Bothwell, from Dresden, from rural routes of Chatham, Ontario, and it's a petition that's dealing with the strong opposition to Bill 38, the elimination of Sunday as the definition of a legal holiday, and I do affix my signature to it.

1520

PORT HOPE AND COBOURG
DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): It's my pleasure to present a petition today on behalf of over 1,700 people living in the riding of Northumberland, four of whom are in the members' gallery. It is to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Port Hope, Cobourg and the surrounding townships, hereby petition the Parliament of Ontario to act upon the following:

"That the board of directors and the administrative staff of the Port Hope and Cobourg district hospitals be amalgamated. The reduction in director expenses and administrative services and salaries will create a saving in overhead expenses that can be more effectively directed towards patient care.

"Our community of 40,000 people requires more beds, with fewer managers and directors. Closures and a reduction in the health care providers hurt the community while benefiting only the bureaucracy."

I have signed this petition as well.

DRIVERS' LICENCES

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition with 48 signatures from my riding of Dufferin-Peel. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the recent death and injury of five youths within the riding of Dufferin-Peel have deeply disturbed the residents; and

"Whereas these deaths might have been prevented if legislation concerning graduated licensing had been in place; and

"Whereas we would like to prevent further deaths and injuries to our new drivers and young people,

"We would like to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to bring forward legislation to introduce graduated licences within the province of Ontario."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have received more petitions from residents of the city of Toronto concerned about the impact of market value assessment.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Metro Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived plan to bring in market value assessment in spite of the solid opposition of the city of Toronto; and

"Whereas we believe market value as the basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto is the wrong tax at the wrong time and in the wrong place; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relation to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas, if the province changes legislation to deny the city of Toronto the right to determine our own method of property tax reform, Toronto home owners, tenants and businesses will in future be left to the mercy of regional government; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and our small businesses will be devastated by further increases; and

"Whereas city of Toronto residents account for 29% of Metro's population but Toronto taxpayers foot 40% of Metro's bills,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto and to allow each local municipality in Metro Toronto the autonomy to determine our own method of property tax reform in our own municipality."

I agree wholeheartedly with this and have affixed my signature.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province. We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning the Premier, Bob Rae, to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I have signed this petition.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I have a petition regarding a Catholic elementary school in Nobleton.

"For the following reasons, we, the undersigned, request that our elected member of the provincial Parliament assist us in expediting the construction of a Catholic elementary school in Nobleton in the township of King:

"Whereas the Ministry of Education has approved the building of this school;

"Whereas the Ministry of Education has provided funding for this school;

"Whereas Holy Name school in King City, where most of Nobleton's Catholic students attend, is severely overcrowded;

"Whereas the Ministry of Education and the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board have made a joint proposal to the Ministry of the Environment for denitrification facilities on the new school site,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario to assist us in expediting the construction of this Catholic elementary school in Nobleton in the township of King."

I have affixed my signature thereto.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): "We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, oppose Bill 40 and draw attention to the following:

"We object to the government's assumption that the only good workplace is a unionized workplace. We believe the balance of power is already tilted in favour of labour and that further tinkering will result in fewer investment dollars being spent in Ontario, loss of jobs and revenue and an increase of tension between labour and business. We believe that Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession and that employers are already being challenged with existing and proposed legislation. We, the citizens of Ontario, did not ask for these changes.

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that Bill 40 be revoked immediately."

Unfortunately, that probably won't happen. I will affix my signature hereto.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 32 residents of the county of Middlesex, who ask that the report of the arbitrator, Mr John Brant, for the greater London area be set aside because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the people of Middlesex who said very, very clearly that it was too extensive an area of annexation, that the report will cause the county of Middlesex to be jeopardized in terms of protection of agricultural land. It will compromise the viability of the county of Middlesex and our rural way of life.

I have signed my name to this petition.

GAMBLING

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has traditionally had a commitment to family life and quality of life for all the citizens of Ontario; and

"Whereas families are made more emotionally and economically vulnerable by the operation of various gaming and gambling ventures; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has had a historical concern for the poor in society who are particularly at risk each time the practice of gambling is expanded; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party has in the past vociferously opposed the raising of moneys for the state through gambling; and

"Whereas the citizens of Ontario have not been consulted regarding the introduction of legalized gambling casinos despite the fact that such a decision is a significant change of government policy and was never part of the mandate given to the government by the people of Ontario,

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government immediately cease all moves to establish gambling casinos by regulation and that appropriate legislation be introduced into the assembly along with a process which includes significant opportunities for public consultation and full public hearings as a means of allowing the citizens of Ontario to express themselves on this new and questionable initiative."

Signed by a number of people, I submit it.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition.

"To the Legislature of Ontario:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregard the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the relevant portions of Middlesex patently not being economically viable,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report of the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I have a petition here that's signed by many residents of my riding from Blenheim, Erieau, Charing Cross and other areas. It says:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act. I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38 to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

1530

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I have a petition here regarding lights at the intersection of William Roe Boulevard and Yonge Street in Newmarket.

"Concerned residents in the area of William Roe and Yonge Street would like to have traffic lights installed at the intersection of William Roe and Yonge Street to prevent further accidents and allow easy access to the bus stop on the west side of Yonge Street. Let's act now before someone is killed at this intersection."

This is signed by hundreds and hundreds of residents in the area, and I have affixed my signature to this petition and hope very strongly that the minister will act on it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

P.J. CONSTRUCTION LIMITED ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Cordiano, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr35, An Act to revive P.J. Construction Limited.

MODERN OPTICAL LTD. ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Cousens, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr63, An Act to revive Modern Optical Ltd.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GAMING SERVICES ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992

SUR LES SERVICES RELATIFS AU JEU

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 26, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Gaming Services / Loi prévoyant la réglementation des services relatifs au jeu.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for Mississauga West.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): The Clerk is going to find out what time is left on the clock for this, Mr Speaker, but I'm pleased to have the opportunity to carry on my discussions on this bill, a bill that is intended to regulate the activities of commercial participants in Ontario's charitable gaming industry.

It's really rather interesting how much time we spend on gambling issues in this particular day and age in this Legislature, with this government. It seems like every time we turn around, it's either the Nevada tickets or bingo or lotteries, betting on the sports lottery, casinos: It really is quite something. Perhaps it's an example of the state of the current government in that the only way it seems to be able to resolve or attempt to resolve any of its fiscal problems is to come up with some new scheme.

I even hear that in the Whitevale area they've got a lottery going for the new dump, so that if you pick the first five lotteries, you can put five bucks down and you can win some money on that. The key is that you have to guess a skill-testing question, which is, "What does IWA stand for?" Apparently, it does not stand for "It's Whitevale again," but it could be.

I don't know. These guys have got a lottery and a gambling idea for just about every cockamammy scheme they can think of. I guess that's because, as the province well knows, with the government coming apart at the seams every day, it's bankrupt of new ideas.

This particular bill is based on good intentions, but there's not a lot of trust in the charitable community organizations that this government will be able to live up to the commitments and follow through with its plan. Last July, I wrote a letter to the minister, the Honourable Marilyn Churley, who has responded to me with some of the concerns. I want to put these concerns, Minister, on the record publicly so that the people who have raised them are comfortable with the issue and so the minister knows that since it's been put on the record, the minister is well aware that these issues have been raised publicly.

Both the first and second draft discussion papers outline a change in the prize level. Just to help the minister and the people watching, you can appreciate that the prize level at a bingo game will determine the success of that game. The number of participants: If the prizes are reasonable, then they'll get a good turnout at a particular time.

The fear was that the government wanted to simply change—it said so in both the first and second draft discussion papers—the level of prizes from 50% of the proceeds that come in to 60%. That, on the surface, may not seem like such a big deal, but that 10% increase in the prize level is in fact being taken right out of the profits the charities enjoy, because everything else is regulated. The amount the operator can charge is regulated, tied to a percentage. The only thing that's not regulated would be the sales of food and soft drinks and things of that nature sold at these bingo events. But everything else is regulated by legislation.

The only place for that increased prize money to come from is from the pockets of the charities, which runs totally counter to what the intent of this particular bill is, or what the minister and the government tell us the intent is. The 10% increase in the prize money simply reduces the amount of money available to the charities.

Let me give you one example, Bingo City in Mississauga. I have the statistics here. The total revenue over the year in Bingo City is in the neighbourhood of \$5.5 million. A reduction of 10% in the revenue to the charities—you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out—is over \$500,000 a year to the charity groups going out. You ask yourself, "Why would they want to do this?" Bingo City is quite successful. The charities are quite successful. We can appreciate that perhaps in other parts of the province, less populated areas where perhaps there is not the great interest in bingo—although I think that interest is province-wide—perhaps bingos are having trouble surviving and making a profit.

It is not so in my riding, in Mississauga. I'm sure it is not so in many of the ridings around the greater Toronto area and in Toronto itself, where bingo is extremely popular. So in these areas where you want to attract more players, it might make some sense to increase the amount of prize money available for these players in the hope that

more folks will come out and therefore play more and generate a larger revenue.

That's not the case and should not be used as a broad brush in the areas where they are successful, because all you're doing—that extra 10% in prize money in the Bingo City community will generate really very few, if any, additional bingo players and the fact is that it's not needed.

The money is just taken away from the community, and at a time when this government is looking for ways to cut its spending in every ministry. We know the Minister of Community and Social Services has announced millions of dollars are going to be just arbitrarily slashed within her ministry, trying to fight the deficit and fight the recession on the backs of the very people the New Democratic Party has purported to represent and fight for over the years.

At a time when that kind of mentality is going on in government, I say it would be shameful if, for no reason, the government was to simply, in a broad-brush way, increase the prize money under this legislation, taking it out of the pockets of the charities. Ask yourself, what do those charities do with the money? Whether it's the cancer society or the heart and stroke fund or whether it's minor sports, there is the amount of good that is done within the community.

1540

I've been pressing this government to pass the private member's bill I recently introduced to make it illegal for young people to buy lottery tickets. At a time when our kids are out there gambling on professional sports, going into our corner stores, which have been turned into bookie joints by this government, and betting on Monday Night Football or NHL games, at a time when our kids are being really exhorted to do this by the advertising put forward by the Ontario Lottery Corp, sponsored through the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, backed up by this government, then maybe this is the time we should really be looking even more seriously at the good works that are done by the many minor sports groups that run bingos.

I can tell you I have personally worked in those bingos, to sell cards and help in those terrible smoke-filled rooms, to try to raise money for hockey teams, for the Mississauga Jets, for the Mississauga North Stars, for good organizations within my community that work very hard for the Erindale baseball, for the Erin Mills baseball, for the Cawthra baseball. What are these people doing it for? They're not out there working their bingos on Friday and Saturday evenings, taking away time from their families to try to raise money for their own particular good; they're doing it for the good of the kids who are involved in minor sports.

What's happening today is that those kids are taking money and going down to the corner store and gambling it on professional sports games. This government, by its apparent lack of willingness to go for unanimous consent to give second and third reading to that bill, is starting to make me fear it doesn't particularly care about that issue.

It's equally important that if that is the mentality, I say to the minister, we ensure that these sports organizations and the charitable organizations have every opportunity to raise the money needed to promote the good-quality programs they offer.

This brings up the second concern that has been raised by people operating those facilities, and that is eligibility. Let me go back to one of the draft papers. This is a discussion paper, the second draft. Under "Policy and administrative issues" it says, "Eligibility decisions for all groups will be made by the province."

It goes on with some detail to outline, I guess, the proposal that the provincial government will use to determine who is eligible to get a licence to participate in bingo.

This is right out of the document: "Organizations which are eligible to conduct lottery events will be placed into one of three different categories: registered non-profit, charitable organizations; non-profit, non-charitable organizations which raise funds for others (service clubs), and non-profit, non-charitable organizations which raise funds for themselves. How the charity can use its lottery funds will be determined by the category under which it is classified. The province is not proposing to change the eligibility guidelines already established under a bulletin that had been put out previously."

The reason I mention this is that the minor sports groups are very concerned that the day may come when this government decides to extend its mandate or its tentacles into the bingo revenues to try to solve the health crisis, or to try to solve the Comsoc crisis that it is creating with the cutbacks that this minister is sort of dangling out there like a carrot to see who's going to get upset. That's what she's doing: sort of flying a trial balloon.

Let me talk about all the cutbacks to the people who are taking care of their kids who need help in their homes, or the people who are living at home, the senior citizens, getting some financial assistance to be able to stay in their homes under programs that were initiated by the former Liberal government and that this government is about to start dismantling.

What these minor sports organizations are concerned about is the possibility that this revenue-greedy, revenue-hungry New Democratic government will decide that it's going to milk the cash cow called "bingo" and that it's going to redirect those dollars that are now going to support the efforts of such fine community groups as the ones I've mentioned, and many others all across this province. They're going to start taking that money and using it to solve the deficit problems created by the current Treasurer and by the current government, and that frightens them.

What could happen is that the government could simply come along under this particular policy—eligibility decisions for all groups will be made by the province—and decide that minor hockey groups, minor organization teams—Mrs Marland, nice to see you come, nice to see you go.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I thought she was your friend.

Mr Mahoney: She is my friend.

They may decide that these sports groups are no longer going to be eligible to run the bingo and to use the money that they need for their groups.

I want to clear up any thoughts that anyone may have on this lottery business. I understand the significance of the revenue that can be raised throughout the province through lotteries and bingo, and the key here is to make them sponsored, run and properly organized by volunteer community groups, not by the government. We understand there have to be regulations, but this government is saying that the purpose of this bill is to regulate the activities of commercial participants.

For anyone who's never been through this whole bingo issue, let me tell you that in 1978, when I was first elected to Mississauga city council, I remember walking into the last meeting of the outgoing council, and the council chamber was jammed. It was packed. The issue on the agenda that day was bingo and who gets a licence.

What happens is that you get all of the various charity groups saying: "We want into this. We want an opportunity to raise money for our organization and bingo is a good way to do it." Then you get the commercial hall operators. These people are already regulated, they're already restricted by the amount of money they can charge for rent to the charities. A commercial hall operator is not allowed to run a bingo. A commercial hall operator is nothing more than a landlord for the tenants, who are the charity organizations within the community, and they, through working with the municipality, are the ones who get the bingo licence. They need a place to work.

Obviously, the charity groups are not in a position on their own. They all have other jobs. They're volunteers. They're not going to be in a position, either from a time constraint perspective or financially, to set up a great bingo hall with all of the electronic data that's necessary in a modern-day bingo hall, with all of the infrastructure that's needed, with all of the fans to get the smoke out and everything else that's involved. It's expensive to set up this kind of operation. So in comes the commercial operator who sets up a bingo hall and then goes out to the charity groups.

In essence what they have done is they've created modern state-of-the-art bingo halls. They've taken them out of the church basements by and large—in some instances to the detriment of some parts of the community, although I recognize there's still a lot of bingo going on in church basements, and so it should be throughout this province—and they've put them into highly commercialized operations.

I think it's appropriate that any government regulate and control what these commercial operators are able to do, what they can charge and how they must operate. This is something this government is going to experience as it moves into the gambling casino era. Like anything else, there is always an opportunity for less than ethical people to get involved in this kind of business.

There's tremendous money. One bingo hall in Mississauga, Bingo City, makes 5.5 million bucks a year in gross revenue. That's amazing. You can just spread that and extrapolate it, and that's only one hall in Mississauga. There are others. They're in Brampton and they're all over the province. I can tell you we're talking hundreds of millions of dollars in bingo revenue being generated to the charities. I

don't blame the charities for being nervous when they see this government all of a sudden experimenting with gambling casinos.

1550

By the way, the people of Windsor hope that the revenue that comes out of their casino will stay in Windsor and will go to serve the people of Windsor, and not go to Pink Floyd so he can simply magically pay down his deficit that he's created through the mismanagement of this government.

The people of Windsor also don't trust this government. They see them opening up the gambling casino and, first of all, making a mess of it. Someone suggested they should get organized crime to run it if they want to make money. I wouldn't go that far, but I'm quite sure this government is going to find that it's going to have difficulty wrapping its ideology around this until it sees how much money is there.

Already there are signs the government is going to usurp the money that comes out of the Windsor gambling casino and use it for purposes other than what the original plan was designed for, and that's really unfortunate.

Today charities have more trouble than ever before in raising money. I have a nephew going on a trip with his hockey team. He plays for the North Stars. They're going to Europe. You can say, "Well, that's grandiose and they're a bunch of spoiled little kids." Not true: Those kids have raised money; they have sold chocolate bars; they have had car washes. Those kids have worked for two years to raise the money necessary, and whatever shortfall there is will be made up by the parents. They've run bingo, let me tell you, and they've raised money for this trip by bingo.

I've been involved in that. Twice I've led teams over to Europe and I know how difficult and how hard it is but, Mr Speaker, let me tell you that there's nothing more worthwhile for a young person than to experience that kind of happening.

In 1985 I led a baseball team through the Orient. All the money was raised by the kids, by the parents and by the community groups. They worked hard to ensure that the money was there so there wouldn't be one person on the team who couldn't afford to go. We all pitched in, and that's what happens with all of these groups: Everybody pitches in. If one person raises a couple of thousand dollars more than another person, then so be it. No one will argue against that because it's all for the good of the team.

People understand, when they're running organizations like this, the value to these young people, the things you teach them. You teach them how to be part of a team. You teach them hard work, something that I think today we more and more have to teach our young people.

You teach them that you don't get something for nothing, unlike what we're experiencing today under this government, where a kid has a chance to lay two bucks down on tonight's Monday Night Football game at his Becker's store. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine that we have actually come to this time and place in our society under this socialist government, led by holier-than-thou Premier, Japan-bound Bookie Bob Rae, can you imagine that we've come to this point in our society where

a kid can take a \$2 bill and go to his corner store and he can place a bet on Monday Night Football?

I've got to tell you that I'm glad my youngest is now 17. I've got a 20-year-old in university and a 22-year-old, and I'm glad they've grown up, because I would hate the thought of them being 10, 11 or 12 years old. They would be attracted to this lottery. Who wouldn't? You've got Don Cherry standing up, "Put your money where your mouth is." Don Cherry's one of their heroes.

You've got an opportunity to bet on Mario Lemieux in the Pittsburgh Penguins against the Leafs. Well, for a 12-, 13- or 14-year-old youngster, that's pretty exciting stuff. They get a chance to bet on Monday Night Football. Maybe the old man's been doing it through a bookie for a couple of years. That's his business. It's really unbelievable that we would have literally stumbled down the road to this point in time where we have that kind of accessibility available to our young people.

I know from talking to people in all three parties that there is general concurrence and agreement with my private member's bill that we should make it illegal to sell lottery tickets to our young people, and yet I can't seem to get the government to move. I hope that'll happen. That's not Bill 26, but it all relates to the bankruptcy of this particular government in having to resort to these kinds of desperate, revenue- and money-grabbing measures. They'll do just about anything, if they don't get caught at it, to raise additional revenue until somebody blows the whistle.

Prove me wrong. Go to your House leader and get him to bring in a motion for unanimous consent to pass Bill 92, and we'll make it illegal to sell lottery tickets to kids. Don't sit there getting all huffy with me. Prove me wrong. I'll be the first one to stand up in this place and say congratulations to the Bob Rae government for showing some action, congratulations for making it illegal for our young people to gamble in their corner stores. I will. I make that pledge that I will do that if you in that caucus will convince your government House leader to get off his butt and bring in unanimous approval to give second and third reading to that bill.

Every day we sit around here and go: "Well, there is due process. We've got to make sure everything's okay." One of the lawyers in the bureaucracy said he was concerned that there might be a charter challenge to the rights of children if we were to make it illegal for them to gamble. Can you believe it? Let them challenge. Let the lawyers bring in a charter challenge. I'd be delighted. I'm not a lawyer and I'd fight that one without a problem.

Maybe we should allow our kids to drive cars at 7, maybe we should sell them a beer at 14 in a bar anywhere they want to go, because we don't want to step on the poor little babies' rights in New Democratic Party Ontario. Why don't we let them run for office? Maybe they would do a better job, come to think of it. Maybe they would do a better job. Maybe we wouldn't have cabinet ministers getting booted and resigning every other week.

But we have to understand that we have some responsibility to recognize the good work that is done on an ongoing basis by all the volunteer charity organizations in

this province. We have to make sure that we don't just inadvertently pass legislation that will hurt the efforts of those people.

The new rules that will be put into place to allow charities to run gaming activities will significantly expand the market for the lotteries. I know there are a lot of charity groups that want to get into the instant win—what do they call them?—Nevada tickets. They want to get into the scratch-and-win. They want to do all that kind of stuff.

By the way, this sports lottery that I've been going on about—I note to the aggravation of some, but I don't care; I happen to think it's a critical issue—is not the first time. Even though it brought it to my attention and to the public's attention, it's not the beginning of selling lottery tickets to young people. The scratch-and-win, you know, where they buy it for a buck and scratch and win a buck back or win a free ticket, whatever, has apparently been quite popular. We're all surprised at this. We didn't recognize that perhaps there was that kind of money being spent.

I know that particular lottery, like the lotteries, like the bingo games, like the Nevadas, will raise millions of dollars in the province. If it's done under the auspices of the charitable organizations, in my view and experience, it's good clean fun. It's done for a purpose. They have a game plan. They know exactly what they want to do. They're not raising the money to bail out the Treasurer. They're not raising the money to bail out the Minister of Health or the Minister of Community and Social Services. They're raising the money because they have a game plan. They want to take a team on a trip, they need new equipment for the teams, they have some concerns that they represent an organization, they want to use the money for research in a non-profit way. There are very good things that it's used for.

My closing message to the minister, aside from the fact that I have frankly a lot of personal concerns about the apparent attitude of this government that, "If we've got a problem, we'll just generate a lottery or we'll just come up with some cockamammy idea," those concerns aside, is that I want to say to the minister—and I believe this minister agrees with me—we want to ensure that we put in place legislation that does not harm the charity groups, we want to ensure that we put in place legislation that puts down rules and regulations for the commercial operators, clear-cut guidelines for the municipalities under which they can issue these licences and an opportunity for these charity groups to keep doing the very good work they do.

Minister, if that is your intent, I congratulate you and will support you in those attempts.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

1600

Mr Tilson: I would like to respond to the member for Mississauga West and his comments with regard to this bill. I think he's right. I think one of the big concerns the government should have is the control this government is giving with respect to regulations and the regulation of the whole gaming industry.

The ability of the government to take control of this industry is simply unlimited. There's no process for a review of the regulations. When you read the generality, for example, of section 48, it simply says:

"The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

"(a) prescribing anything that is referred to in this act as being prescribed by the regulations."

Very general wording. There is nothing with respect to reviewing these regulations on an annual basis or a triannual basis commencing from the date of royal assent. There's nothing with respect to that.

I believe that one of the main problems with respect to this piece of legislation is that it paints all owners of and suppliers to bingo parlours as being nasty boys. When you read the sections of the bill, specifically sections 10(b) and 10(a), the obligation of these people is that they're going to have to prove to the registrar that they are individuals with "honesty" and "integrity" and are working in the best interests of their community. Who knows what these words mean? But it's putting a tremendous onus on these people.

It's even being suggested that these people must receive fingerprinting. Have you ever heard of such a proposal? If these regulations that are going to be proposed by this government—we haven't seen any yet, but it's certainly been suggested that these people will be obliged to take fingerprinting. It normally, of course, is a suggestion for some criminal element to require fingerprinting, and I don't think this is the case.

So in order either to review or renew an existing licence or apply for a new licence under the legislation, the individual literally must jump through hoops for the registrar. I think that's totally unfair.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further questions or comments?

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I want to rise in support of the comments of my colleague the member for Mississauga West and, I think, make two particular points. One is with respect to his private member's bill, Bill 92. I would hope that those people who have been watching the debate on this issue—those parents, many of whom I know have been in touch with my colleague, with myself, with other members about making sure that young people cannot bet on lotteries—would be getting in touch with all of us as individual members to say, "Look, this is something we want to see ended."

The member for Mississauga West has put forward a very sensible and simple bill. He has said as recently as today that he would be more than happy if the government would simply take that bill over, bring it in, and we could ensure a speedy passage of it.

But it is an issue out there that I've found has struck a real chord with many parents. I would hope it would be something where the government would say, "Look, this is something that doesn't make sense, that young people should be able willy-nilly to bet and gain money in that way," and that it's something we don't want to get them started on. Because what happens, of course, with so many

kids is that they lose the money; they don't win. They're learning that that's the kind of thing you do to get sort of instant gratification, instant wins, and of course life isn't like that.

So I think one of the things we want to say to people who are following this debate is, let's get in touch with all of the members and say, 'Government, act on that private member's bill and make changes.'

The second thing I want to note is just to underline what the member for Mississauga West said about helping the charitable groups. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs, for example, have written to many of us saying, "Look, we want to make sure we can continue to do what we've been doing."

We support the member for Mississauga West in his comments and we say to the government, let's bring in the private member's bill in 1992 and see some action.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further questions or comments? If not, the member for Mississauga West, you have two minutes.

Mr Mahoney: I won't put words in her mouth, but the minister apparently has been quoted as saying that this bill is totally unrelated to the issue of casino gambling and other forms of gambling. While in the strictest interpretation of the bill that may be true, overall I think we have to recognize that legal gambling in this province is a \$4-billion industry already. We can stick our head in the sand and pretend it isn't, but when you share it among charitable games, such as bingo played, as I've said, by the many various groups, the government lotteries, whether it's the sports line lottery or, prior to that, all of the straight number lotteries, or horse racing—horse racing is a huge industry and a very important industry.

Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: It's \$2 billion, the horse racing alone, the minister says. It's also a good form of entertainment.

My whole point in all of this is that it should be adult entertainment, and I don't mean that as some kind of purist, because I've dealt with young people, kids, having, as I've said, three young boys myself—you can appreciate that leads to having many young folks around the house all the time over the years—having been a coach in teams and involved for many, many years.

I'm kind of proud of the fact that I have a good relationship with the young people I know. Last summer I even played on a hockey team, believe it or not, where, other than me, the average age was about 19. So I appreciate that relationship, and I think it's important to understand that we're talking about charitable games that are being used to raise money for the benefit of those people.

What I am tying in—I think it's all related—is that I just implore this government—and I know we get angry and bash the government; I guess it's in our job description—that at the same time as we support the minister on this worthwhile legislation, we pass Bill 92 unanimously in this House as soon as possible.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): I am delighted to be given the opportunity to speak today for longer than what amounts to the regular speaking time of half an hour as a result of the rule changes brought in by this government some time ago, which we continue to oppose and continue to express our contrary view that in fact democracy is not well served by the limitation of speaking time in this chamber for members to express themselves in their entirety about the issues that matter, and we are dealing with an important issue today, which is Bill 26.

My colleague spoke on it earlier and I want to make my remarks today with respect to the Gaming Services Act. The question with respect to Bill 26 is a \$4-billion question, as my colleague alluded to earlier.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Maybe we should have a quorum.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there a quorum?

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller): A quorum is not present, Speaker.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is now present. The member for Lawrence, you have the floor.

Mr Cordiano: As I was saying, legal gambling in the province of Ontario is a huge industry. It's a \$4-billion industry. It's shared among government lotteries, horse racing and charitable games.

The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations estimates that charitable gaming alone generates revenues of about \$1.5 billion per year in Ontario. These are the figures I think the minister used in her press release. Approximately 25% of the revenue, or about \$375 million, is used for prizes and expenses. The remainder of approximately \$1.125 billion is left over for the charities that raise the money.

As the members are well aware, charitable gaming includes bingo, Nevada lotteries, raffles and Monte Carlo nights. As I said, charitable gaming nets about \$1.125 billion per year in Ontario, and that money goes directly to the charities that raise the money.

Of course, Bill 26 is intended to regulate the activities of commercial participants in Ontario's gaming industry. I think the minister, in her news release some time ago, dated May 27, alluded to the fact that \$30 million is being skimmed off the top of charitable gaming proceeds by what she called "unscrupulous operators." Obviously, this legislation is an effort to ensure that charities get all of the proceeds they raise, and of course I commend the efforts with respect to Bill 26 to do just that.

1610

Members also know that non-profit organizations, such as the Ontario Head Injury Association, have historically relied on the sale of Nevada tickets, lottery tickets, bingos and casino nights to raise a fairly large percentage of their revenues.

With respect to Bill 26, I want to deal with the history of this piece of legislation, how it came about. Members may not be aware, particularly those newer members who were elected in the last election, that legislation was being contemplated when the Liberal Party was the government.

We issued a consultation paper in February 1990 which was entitled Charitable Gaming, putting charities back in the driver's seat. I think it's important to recognize what efforts were made to do just that with charitable organizations: putting them back in the driver's seat, giving them control with respect to direct revenues and giving them a full say and greater opportunities to increase those revenues.

As a Liberal government, we introduced legislation in June 1990, and of course it died on Orders and Notices, but the broad strokes of this bill are none the less very similar to what we had intended in that piece of legislation. But, as I say, the problem now of course is that we have to see regulations which the minister has yet to bring about. I hope those measures will put in place opportunities for the bill to be followed properly with respect to the regulations that are enacted and will in fact do what was intended in the legislation.

Bill 26 is split up into five sections. Part I provides for the setup of a registrar of gaming services and allows for deputy registrars.

Part II deals with registration and requires suppliers and gaming assistants to register with the gaming services registrar. That's important, because certain standards have to be met in the gaming industry, and those will be seen as part of this section.

Part II also allows the registrar to conduct inquiries of the applicant in areas such as financial history and competence of the applicant. I know the Conservative critic has alluded to the kinds of investigations which will be conducted, checking for things like criminal records etc, and he certainly made comment on the fact that he's uncomfortable with certain aspects of this. I think a full disclosure and a full and open investigative process need to be undertaken and I have no difficulty with that, so I would support the initiative to have full and open investigative procedures in place to do just that.

Part II further allows for any supplier or gaming assistant who has his or her gaming registration suspended or revoked the right to a hearing before the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal.

Part III deals with the parameters of activity of the gaming assistants and suppliers. Suppliers are required to keep financial records; again, very significant, the keeping of financial records. We want a proper accounting with respect to what takes place in these operations. We need to ascertain, for the purposes of guaranteeing the kinds of revenues that we're talking about, assured to the charities, that proper records be maintained. That is crucial, and that is certainly provided for in part III of the bill.

Part IV addresses the issues of investigations and enforcement and, as I said earlier, that is also very crucial.

Part V speaks to general items such as offences and regulations. I've made mention of the fact that regulations have not been forthcoming and obviously will be. I know that charitable organizations and suppliers have both expressed concern with respect to these regulations. The actual impact of the legislation with respect to charities' abilities to raise funds will not be known until that time, until regulations are introduced, but I would urge you to listen closely to what the charities have to say with regard

to this because it's important not to lose sight of who this legislation was intended to help.

I want the minister to ensure that in the setting-up of a registrar of gaming services we do not have the same fiasco, if you will, that we had in the office of the registrar general, in the setup, in the time that it takes to set up the registrar. Certainly, the kind of mismanagement that took place at the ORG we do not want to see take place with this office.

It's absolutely crucial that this office be set up properly and I implore the minister not to bring about a situation where there is mismanagement on the part of that office, as this is critical to the survival of charities. That's what's important here, the survival, and we are talking survival, Madam Minister. We're talking survival because—

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Talk to the bill.

Mr Cordiano: I am talking about the bill, and if the member would listen he might learn something.

Mr Mammoliti: I'm falling asleep here. Do the bill.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Cordiano: Mr Speaker, if the member wants to fall asleep, I suggest he go home, have a hot cup of tea, rest his feet in the air and contemplate what he's going to do here for the next two years, because he hasn't done very much in the last two.

I want to talk about the survival of charities because essentially that's what this bill is supposed to do: allow charities to survive, allow them to generate revenues which are an improvement over the past. I say to the minister, that's all fine and good and this legislation, in and of itself, will probably do that, all things being equal. But as we know, all things will not be equal. The fact of the matter is that you can't take this bill and deal with the impact of it in isolation. I think this is where this government is fundamentally wrong in its whole approach to this whole area.

My colleague the member for Mississauga West has raised important concerns with regard to the Pro Line sports lottery and the implications for young people, and I support his efforts to ensure that things do not get out of control in this province.

As we had gaming on this front, with respect to charitable organizations, things were pretty well under control, and I know that Bill 26 is going to improve the situation and the lot of charities. When you get out of control with respect to sports lotteries that enable young people to go out and literally gamble unbridled, uncontrolled, we're losing sight of what was intended by this minister, what was intended by this administration, with respect to the whole area of casino gambling and gambling in general.

1620

This is a fundamental question, and if the member for Yorkview is paying attention and not falling asleep as he usually does in this place, he would want to listen to this because—

Mr Mammoliti: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Yorkview.

Mr Mammoliti: I have yet to fall asleep in this place and I don't know where—

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Lawrence, would you please continue your debate?

Mr Cordiano: The member was earlier commenting on the fact that he was about to fall asleep, so I wanted to perk him up a little and make sure he wasn't going to fall asleep in his place.

I think it's important for this administration and for the people who make up this administration to realize that what we're doing here with respect to gambling in general is fundamental to the people of the province. We are altering once and for all the general landscape with respect to how people approach this subject. Now, once casino gambling is a reality of this province—we now have a commitment by this government to bring about casino gambling—we will no longer have opportunities to go back and address the kinds of concerns that have been raised by the member for Mississauga West. We can't have a situation where young people are allowed to gamble their money away, because that's quite a big concern for most parents to have their kids—it's not a good example for kids; it's not a good example.

I think this government needs to address that immediately. That's why we call and the member for Mississauga West has called for the government to act immediately on his private member's bill. This government shouldn't waste any time. I know the minister is moving forward quickly to address the whole question, to bring forward the initiatives with respect to the pilot project in Windsor. This train is moving rather quickly, so there is nothing that you should do to waste time with respect to this whole area.

If we're going to have casino gambling, then do it properly. If you're going to bring about a fundamental change in attitudes in this province, let's ensure at least that young people are not dragged in with it. Let's give them the opportunity at least to look at other types of entertainment rather than gambling, because we know if they're indoctrinated to this type of lifestyle in their early years—I don't think anyone in this House would support that view. I don't think there's a member in this House—and I'd be shocked to discover that there would be—who would want to see young children out there gambling, following those examples, because young people are affected by this. Young people are shaping their minds. Young people look for role models, for the things in our society which would point them to a future, and it's not a future, I suggest, that should involve gambling at a young age. When they become adults, that's a different matter; they're old enough to make their own decisions and I think that needs to be respected.

Let's give young people an opportunity before they go ahead and have unbridled opportunity to gamble in our province. That's certainly not something we support, and I suggest, again, that is certainly not something I would want anyone in this House to support.

I say it is important, it is absolutely crucial, that we understand the impact, the implications, that casino gambling will have with respect to charitable organizations.

Bill 26 does nothing to mitigate the damage that will be done to charitable organizations with respect to casino gambling. The advent of casino gambling will seriously impair the opportunities for charitable organizations to raise revenues. There is no doubt about that. The minister has refused—this government, Bob Rae's government, has refused—to examine that very fundamental question: What will be the impact on charitable organizations? What will be the impact with respect to their revenues? Will they continue to have the opportunities that they've had in the past to raise revenues? They have done so for many, many years now and have become reliant on those revenues. As I said, \$1.125 billion is raised by these charitable organizations from gaming activities. I have to repeat that.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): How much?

Mr Cordiano: It's \$1.125 billion. It is an enormous amount of money. What the government miserably fails to understand is that once casino gambling becomes a reality, once those casinos are in operation, they will be competing, they will be sucking away gambling business from these charitable organizations, their gaming nights, their casino nights, their bingo operations. They will be drawing all that business which would have normally gone to these casino nights into the casino establishments themselves.

I ask you, how in the world are these charitable organizations going to compete with full-fledged casinos around the province? They're not going to be able to. This government has done precious little to look at that question. They haven't even bothered to look at that question. They aren't even looking at it with some really in-depth studies to determine what might happen.

I think it's important to note that when I asked the minister in committee about the kinds of impacts that will be resultant on the charitable organizations, she simply suggested that they weren't part of the revenue picture, that they weren't going to share in any of the revenue and that in fact they would be consulted—about what, I don't know—about the establishment of casinos in the province of Ontario.

I say to you—and this seems to be the style of this administration—that they say all the right words. "Consultation" is one of those words. "We will consult with the affected groups. We will consult with anybody and everybody who is interested in this matter or any matter that the government wishes to put forward." But these are very hollow words. They do not live up to the expectations they create.

I know for a fact that the charitable organizations have not been consulted with respect to revenues. They've been talked to very briefly about what's going to happen, but certainly they have not been consulted on the give and take that's required. Furthermore, it's been suggested to them that Bill 26 would alleviate most of their problems—and I agree—with respect to the world that we face today, the world we have in place today. But the world is a changing place, and in six months, a year, two years or three years from now, when casinos are full-fledged and in operation throughout the province, that world will be fundamentally different. That world will involve competition of an

unparalleled kind, competition with charities. They will be seriously damaged, as I said earlier.

Going back to the central focus of this with respect to Bill 26, again, it speaks to the lack of consideration on the part of this government before it acts. I would suggest that perhaps, if they conducted their consulting properly, talked to the right people, listened and then acted upon those recommendations made to them—you know, you don't have a licence, you don't have a monopoly on what's right in this province.

1630

Mr Bradley: They think they have.

Mr Cordiano: Yes, they certainly do think they have.

If they would wake up over there and understand that they need to do more with respect to the way they consult—as I said earlier, consultation is not a one-way street. We tell you what's going on and you listen. You've got to get feedback. Not only have you got to get feedback, you've got to dialogue.

When I talk to people out there, they talk repeatedly about the lack of consultation. "The doors are closed at Queen's Park," they say. The doors aren't open. They're not listening to positions that are contrary. They're not listening to the variety. This province has a wealth of variety throughout it. There are people who have different points of view all over the place. If the point of view that's being expressed does not meet with the view of this government, it not only ignores it, it trounces it. They blanket it with their own initiatives, with their own propaganda, to make things look sugar-coated. It's simply not good enough.

As we've repeated in this House many, many times, this province is under severe pressures. The charities are facing severe pressures, my friends. They have the same kinds of pressures as anyone else, in fact, even graver pressures than you can appreciate at this time. I know. I hear from them. They tell us it's quite difficult to operate in these days. As a result, they are turning their attention even more so these days to gaming activities, casino nights, bingos, Nevada lottery tickets etc; whatever they can do to raise funds.

It's important that they be heard by this government. They simply aren't being listened to. They've been cut completely out of the equation.

I look around at the members who are sitting in this House, the members opposite, part of that government. They will probably hear a great deal from various charitable organizations in their ridings that will be calling on them to tell this government very clearly that it cannot leave them high and dry. Once casino gambling is in place, you simply can't abandon them unless you're prepared to make up the shortfall in some way. I have yet to hear that commitment from this government.

I ask you, how are you going to do that? Remember, it's \$1.125 billion that is raised by these charitable organizations from their gaming activities. That's nothing to sneeze at. It's a huge amount of money. I implore this government to seriously consider the implications and ramifications of that.

As I said earlier, I spoke to many organizations across the province and they expressed deep concern with this situation. They pointed out repeatedly that support from the government has been steadily declining, and as I said earlier, the reliance on gaming activities has increased.

I think all charities really want is the opportunity to help themselves. They're wonderful organizations. They go out, they see problems and they organize to solve those problems. Not only that, they involve all kinds of volunteers, essentially enabling them to carry out their good work and do it in the most efficient way possible for the whole of society to benefit.

This government, which is fond of making things costlier in our society as a result of its views—that party over there has done that over the past because of some of the views it holds—would have us do a number of things that ultimately would make things more inefficient and more costly.

This is one of those cases where charitable organizations fulfil a great need in our society, do it admirably and deserve not only our accolades and applause but deserve our support, from this extent at least, that we do not interfere with the good work they do, that we not make it impossible for them to carry out this good work.

I want to make reference to an example, and a good example, of what I'm speaking about, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario. I was written to by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario. I'm sure other members have received this letter from the president. I want to read into the record parts of this letter, which raises a number of concerns that I've alluded to earlier, but it makes the point. I'm quoting from the letter:

"It is in relation to the legalization of casinos that I, on behalf of our provincial board and member agencies, am communicating with you. Let me begin by stating that agencies such as ours require diversified funding bases in order that we may be able to respond to the unique and individual needs of communities in which we serve. The existing legislation, which allows us to operate Monte Carlo and blackjack events, creates some of these needed revenues.

"We have been closely monitoring the development process for casinos over the past months and in the press to date we have seen little information about which partners the government is working with on this issue. The 'who' questions relate to who is involved in the development process for the legalization of casinos, who will be involved in the implementation of this system and which of the partners will share in the profits generated from the proceeds." Now we have some of those answers.

I see the minister is back. I just say to her that it's important to understand the depth of concern that organizations are expressing. I'm reading from a letter I received from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario commenting on the new legislation and the impact that casinos will have on its ability to raise revenues. The letter goes on, and I say for the minister's benefit:

"We wish to clearly state that we feel charities must have a significant role to play not only in the development of this new industry, but in being in a position to receive a

portion of the funds generated. While we recognize that through this new initiative proceeds will be directed to government spending, we feel that charities should also benefit from the process. While we also realize that private enterprise has a role to play in this new industry, it would be regrettable if they, rather than charities, were the primary beneficiaries of proceeds."

I think that sums up what charities feel out there, the fact that they've been excluded from any consideration with respect to revenues that may be generated by casinos, the fact that they have not even been consulted properly, that they're not part of the developmental process surrounding this whole question, the fact that they have not even been given the opportunity to make their views known, which is what they say in the letter, that a process needs to be put in place in consideration of casino gambling once the minister moves forward with legislation—and I hope she's listening now—that she give charitable organizations the opportunity to make their case before the government, in public hearings, with respect to not only the revenues that will be generated but the negative impact on their particular charitable organizations, the fact that they're going to be hard pressed to compete with casinos in the province.

The minister has to listen to this concern. The government has to take into account this very real difficulty they will face. I know it will be a difficult world to operate in. The recession has really put the squeeze on charitable organizations. I hear this from members on all sides of the House and I hear this repeatedly from people across the province. Obviously, it is a difficult time to raise funds for anyone, and charities are certainly under the gun when it comes to going out and raising these revenues.

1640

As I said earlier, and I repeat again for the minister, charities, charitable organizations, rely heavily on their gaming activities, rely heavily on those Monte Carlo nights, on those blackjack nights, on the sale of Nevada lottery tickets, on bingos; they rely heavily on those activities to bring in the needed and necessary revenues that fund all the good works they do. The minister has to realize that this administration has to realize that once casino gambling comes in we, you, will have put these organizations in a very difficult position. There is no denying that.

What I'm saying and suggesting to the minister and to this government and the Premier, if he's going to listen from far away—where is he, in Japan, in Asia somewhere?—is that you have a serious question to deal with in respect of these charitable organizations. Do not leave them hanging dry. Do not leave them out on a limb. Do not seriously impair their ability to raise the kinds of revenues—and as I said, it's a serious amount of money: \$1.125 billion is what they raise each year from gaming activities. The minister knows this. I'm repeating it for the benefit of her colleagues who perhaps are not paying attention at this time.

As I said earlier, there is no other option for these charitable organizations. I noticed that in our committee hearing we heard from the Ontario Racing Commission, and Frank Drea was there to make a presentation to us at

the committee. He talked about the changes that are being undertaken with respect to the horse racing industry.

I asked him on a number of occasions, repeatedly in that committee hearing, to give us a view of what might be the reality, the impact on the racing industry once casino gambling is in place, how he felt about that, how the impact would be felt in the industry. He said in response that they're undertaking a series of initiatives to overcome what impact casino gambling might have on the racing industry.

I know the ministry has supported the initiatives and has had a number of obstacles cleared out of the way for the racing industry in this province to then move forward and look at some of these alternatives. I questioned Mr Drea in those committee meetings as to the fact that it won't enable them to overcome all the problems or the downside with respect to gambling having been introduced, and the negative impact this would have on the racing industry.

Ultimately, he did admit that the changes won't overcome all the negative aspects of casino gambling. But, I say to the minister, you've at least enabled the industry to move forward with alternatives in order to fend off the competition that's to come. You've provided for them to do that. You are supporting initiatives in the horse racing industry to allow it to overcome the effects of casino gambling and you're paving the way for it to do that.

But what are you doing for charitable organizations? Bill 26 does not do that, Madam Minister. It does not allow these organizations any real hope that they can overcome the negative impact that casino gambling will have on their efforts, on their operation. I say to you, as I've suggested earlier, that you either allow them to share in the proceeds, the revenues that are generated from this, in some way that's equitable and in some way that makes some sense, recognizing that they will in fact be impacted, that they will see their revenues decline and have a great deal of difficulty overcoming what is an irresistible draw with respect to casino gambling.

You know, when you have casinos in the province—

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for St Catharines.

Mr Bradley: I was looking around to determine whether there was a quorum in the House. Could we have a count and see whether there is?

The Deputy Speaker: I'll ask the table if there is a quorum.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): A quorum is present, Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: A quorum is present.

Mr Cordiano: Thank you. I'm indeed glad to know there are at least 20 people in the House who are willing to listen to this address I am making.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Mr Speaker, not only am I listening, but I'm going to re-read in Hansard every word.

Mr Cordiano: I say to the member for—what is it, Downsview; or was it the member for Yorkview?—I hope

you do, because in the next election you're going to have to answer for things you're doing now, so stay awake, keep alert and listen. You might learn something, as I said to your colleague earlier.

Getting back to the matter at hand, I think it's—

Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East): Don't worry about it. We don't have the time of day for you.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Cordiano: I say to the members up there—and I know the members who have been interjecting would like to know this—that they have a number of organizations in their particular ridings which depend on these evenings. I don't know if you've attended any of them, but certainly all of them, I will assure you, will pay you a number of visits to hear what your views are with respect to this initiative of the government. I can assure you that these organizations will be looking to those members. Those members will have to answer for the lack of initiative and expression of their concern for charitable organizations.

You know, the hospitals in our areas raise money, other groups—I don't need to rhyme off a list of these groups. They're going to come back and say, "Now that we have lost this revenue; now that you've decimated our budgets"—they have groups doing this already, but these charitable organizations are going to come back, and justifiably so, I say to those members, and say: "You have devastated our budgets. You have completely crimped our ability to raise revenues in the way we have traditionally done so, seriously threatened our operations. Now we're going to come with our cup in hand to this government asking for you to help, or—"

Mr Bradley: That's because they want them to be beholden to the government.

Mr Cordiano: Well, slavery went out a long time ago. I believe in freedom and I think it's important that this government understand that these organizations operate with volunteers, as I said earlier in my speech, who are very efficient, capable individual men and women out there who do the kind of work this government would be very hard pressed to find replacements for—any government, of any day, of any stripe.

Once you introduce this, you are unleashing untold damage with respect to these organizations. This is why I'm making this speech in the way I am, because it's a serious matter with respect to all those organizations out there. It's not something you can easily ignore or just push aside. At least, Madam Minister, I say to you, study the impact. At least look at doing a complete study which will indicate what might happen.

1650

Mr Bradley: Tell her to check with Mel Swart. He would tell her what's going to happen.

Mr Cordiano: Mel Swart would be one of those people you should consult with. He'll tell you exactly how things are in his part of the world.

I think it's incumbent upon this minister to show leadership with respect to charitable organizations. I know they don't all come under her area of responsibility, of course.

They have a number of ministries—perhaps the Ministry of Community and Social Services, perhaps the Ministry of Health etc—that they deal with, but they certainly deal with this minister in respect of Bill 26. She has a listing of all these groups and she has an ability to sit down and talk to these people in a meaningful way to chart out a course.

Show that kind of leadership which will indicate to these groups that you do care, that you will take it to cabinet, that you will make representations on their behalf. There's nothing wrong with showing that kind of initiative, as far as I'm concerned. I don't know how Bob Rae would deal with this, the Premier of the province.

Mr Tilson: Who?

Mr Cordiano: Bob Rae. Remember him? The guy who's overseas. Where is he? In Asia? How come he didn't take any of you gentlemen?

The thing I think it's important to understand, I suggest to you gentlemen over there, is that you should show the kind of leadership which is essential these days. These are difficult, desperate times. People are looking for you, in their respective ridings, in their particular localities, to show and demonstrate that you have what it takes to be here, that you have that kind of leadership, that kind of initiative.

All of you are leaders. Don't just rely on your Premier. Don't just go to him when things are difficult and rely on him to make those decisions. Don't allow him to prevent you from putting forward your views in this House, putting forward your views with respect to what cabinet might do, with respect to a variety of issues which are difficult to deal with, I admit. There's no doubt about that. It's not easy being over there. I admit that. But I say to you, these are difficult times, these are times which require innovative approaches, and we see little of that, we see very little of that.

I say to you, ladies and gentlemen of the government, that you will be facing, several years from now, a difficult situation which you will have to answer for. Once you have decimated these charitable organizations, once you have eliminated the possibility for these very worthwhile efforts that are being made on a volunteer basis—I repeat that: on a voluntary basis by the people of this province, citizens right across this province—you will be very hard pressed to replace those efforts.

Governments cannot do everything. Governments cannot replace the efforts of thousands of volunteers out there who do the kind of work which would be impossible for a government to do and pay for. Remember, these are services which are done free of charge on behalf of citizens around the province.

So think, and not only think, but do some serious studying. That's all I ask of the minister. Conduct a real, serious study, an impact study of what the negative effects might be on the charitable organizations out there that are at this moment desperately seeking alternatives to what might be the end of their activities, or a serious impairment to their ability to continue with their efforts at raising money through these gaming activities.

Some groups, such as the U-Bet Ontario Association, have been lobbying the government to establish permanent charity-run gaming casinos. Now, that's interesting. That's something I believe the government should look at seriously. The group and a number of other people believe that if the government is going to insist on proceeding with casinos, they should be run by charities which should retain all of the profits. Many other individuals, such as community organizations, believe that any profits derived from casino gambling should be pumped back into the community in which the casino is located.

Of course, the minister has indicated that she's not going to share the revenues with anybody, that the Treasurer is completely greedy on this matter. He needs all that money for himself, so he said no to any of the local communities. He said no to Windsor. He may give them some money to help with the additional costs of policing etc, but very little. He's not going to see that the revenues go back into—I'm not suggesting for a moment that it will only be confined to the city of Windsor. Perhaps on a regional basis; improve the economy of the whole region.

The minister has made comment in committee and in this House and outside of this House that the real benefit to these communities will be the spinoffs. You take Atlantic City, for example; that is a casino economy. The spinoff benefits do not exist for Atlantic City. And let's not even talk about Las Vegas, because Las Vegas was intended for that purpose only: gambling. There's only one industry there; it's virtually a one-industry town.

Atlantic City existed before casino gambling went in, and in Atlantic City you have a complete wasteland all around the casinos. Restaurants, hotels, any other type of spinoff the minister wants to allude to is simply not there. Atlantic City does not have any real spinoffs. There are some additional revenues. I believe the state of New Jersey benefits from the revenues that are generated, but they're doing precious little for the local community, the local economy.

It is a complete and utter wasteland. Local businessmen in Atlantic City who thought they would benefit dramatically by the introduction of casinos in their community, right on the boardwalk and in Atlantic City, now find that they could not compete with the casinos, whether it was a restaurant or a hotel or even a parking lot.

This is why I've called on the minister and this government to do the kind of impact studies, in a serious way, in an unbiased way, in an objective way, in an effort to ascertain whether in fact the spinoffs she refers to will result in the kinds of gains she likes to point to and offer up to the citizens of the city of Windsor and the surrounding area.

I say to you, Minister, it is not, by any stretch of the imagination, a foregone conclusion that the city will benefit from any of the spinoffs. In fact, as has been proven in Atlantic City, the advent of casino gambling has seriously impaired the city's economy there. It has serious implications for the local businesses which operate next to the casinos. They can't compete, and many of them have closed down.

I say to you, Minister, we have very little by way of impact study that you've conducted. I know the project in

Windsor is a pilot project, but I've said again on repeated occasions to you, once you introduce casinos, once you go ahead and start the pilot project in Windsor, you're telling me that at some point, if you determine that the thing doesn't work—and again, we have no way to know what you will consider in terms of standards that will be determined to decide whether this is a successful operation or not. We have no way of knowing that at this moment as we speak.

We don't know what set of criteria you're going to use to make your decision as to whether this is a success or failure. If it turns out to be a failure, are you suggesting that you're going to wrap up operations there and close down casinos for ever; that once you've spent untold millions of dollars establishing this, you have sunk costs—we know about sunk costs; other governments have been plagued by them—you're going to reverse yourself and turn back and not move forward with this? No. I don't think so. I think this train is moving. It's out of the station and it's collecting a whole lot of steam.

1700

The fact of the matter is you will be hard pressed indeed to stop casino gambling if you determine, at some future date, that this was all some kind of a mistake. I say to you, study the question even if it takes a little more time and study it well before we actually move ahead. Know what the impact will be on charities, the impact of casinos on the social services of the area, the impact with respect to policing, the impact with respect to crime, the impact on local businesses. What real benefits and spin-offs will there in fact be? You simply have not done those studies, and I say to you, setting up this pilot project is not really the only answer.

You can conduct impact studies. You can have the kind of impact studies which indicate a sense of direction. It's not going to answer all of your questions, but it will point to some direction and it will point to questions being answered, general themes about which we have very little information now.

We can point to Atlantic City. What we see there I don't like, quite frankly, and I don't think any member of this House would want to have what happened in Atlantic City happen in Windsor. I think the people of Windsor will want to pay attention to what happened in Atlantic City. I'm pretty sure they've done their own examinations.

I say to the minister, you're spending untold millions of dollars to set up this pilot project, and once it's in place, knowing what all governments do, once they've spent millions of dollars, you're going to try and make it work. There's no question about that, but don't lose sight of the fact that the impact on the local community and all the other negative impacts that could result have to be mitigated. Quite frankly, I don't know of an example where that has occurred.

There is one place we could look to for some answers. That is Manitoba. I'm sure the minister has done some reading on what happened in Manitoba, as some of her officials and others in the ministry have done some sort of examination on the impact of casino gambling in Manitoba.

We know that small-scale charitable organizations, charitable casinos, were eliminated in Manitoba when the government's Crystal Casino in Winnipeg opened because of the limited gambling market and they just simply closed. I say to you, there is already an example there in Winnipeg, Manitoba. These small charitable organizations couldn't survive in the face of the competition they were facing from the Crystal Casino in Manitoba. So we have examples.

I think it's also important for the minister to realize that as the gambling business grows in this province, competition will also increase over time so that, yes, we may go ahead with the pilot project in Windsor—it's one casino—but competition will increase as a result of a growing awareness of gambling in this province. There will be even greater stresses on these organizations once this pilot project is up and running.

As a result of that, what you're going to get as well directly impacting on the charities, with the growth of competition among charitable organizations, is that the payouts will have to increase, resulting in fewer revenues for the organizations that do survive. Some of them will inevitably survive, but they will also have to increase their payouts and as a result have fewer revenues with which to do all of the things they do. Some of them will die off. Some of them will not be able to compete. But as well, some of them will be hard pressed to keep up the level of revenues which they generate today.

If Bill 26 is introduced on its own in the circumstances that we face today, it's a benefit to all charitable organizations; there's no doubt about that. We will support this initiative, this bill, because of that.

One could think that Bill 26 perhaps could have introduced, with respect to charitable organizations, additional measures by the government to take into account what's happening with casino gambling. I would sit here and say that the negative impact is going to be such that we have to do everything possible at this time to ensure that these organizations will at least, for the foreseeable future and in the next period of time, have this benefit of Bill 26 in operation before casino gambling is a reality. So therefore I say that we have supported the speedy passage of this legislation.

I think the minister, who's not here now, would recognize that we have been supportive of her efforts to get Bill 26 passed in this Legislature. I say again to the party in power, the NDP, that it is appropriate that we do everything possible to assist these organizations, and passing Bill 26 at this time I think will have, in some small way, a positive impact on their operations.

I want to return to the situation in Manitoba because it's very instructive for this government. Manitoba, as all members of this House are probably aware, introduced its casino, the Crystal Casino, in 1989. It's a year-round casino which operates with the proceeds going to the health services fund to pay for such things as health research.

The government of Manitoba was sensitive to charitable organizations. That's why I'm raising this again, Madam Minister. The Manitoba experience is very instruc-

tive and can give you a guide as to what could be done, unlike the general approach and the attitude we see from this government. But it's not too late to change your approach and change the way in which you're going about this.

The charities in Winnipeg were given access to lottery ticket revenues while the charities in the outlying and rural areas were given award money based on a formula. The formula's a little complicated, but essentially, it's the average revenue generated by casinos over the last three years multiplied by two, which was to allow them a two-year period in which to find other sources of revenue. I hope the minister has considered this. The Manitoba government has negotiated funding agreements with umbrella organizations, with inflation factored in, to provide them with a new set amount of base moneys. Any money the charities make for themselves through charitable gaming is their own.

I say to the minister, what can we learn from the Manitoba experience? But firstly, unlike the minister's stated intentions, the revenues from charitable gaming are going to health-related projects. They've targeted the funds for health projects, not to general revenues as this government intends to do.

It's instructive in this sense, because the government realizes that the moneys it generates from the casino should not be relied on to fund the main operations of the government, to provide essential services. Those essential services need stable funding. They don't need the kind of funding that is provided by casinos, which can fluctuate and has fluctuated.

1710

Of course, I think it's important to recognize that the Treasurer of Ontario wants to get his hands on this money. It's a real worry that he'll become so addicted to this money that he won't look for other sources or he won't look at making the government more efficient. All of a sudden he's got this great, big pool of revenues that are coming in that he begins to rely on. Over the years, as time goes by, he begins to rely on those revenues.

This is very important. The Manitoba government has tried to offset the negative impact that the casinos have had on charitable fund-raising. That government is prepared to look at core funding for charitable and non-profit organizations. I ask the minister, can and will she look at that possibility? Is her government prepared to look at that as an offset?

I think it's important to remember that these groups are going to suffer. As I said earlier, their core-funding requirements are going to increase. If they can't rely on casinos, and they certainly can't rely on project moneys, which they're beginning to rely on now, that's not enough. That is not good enough. The fact of the matter is that they need stable funding. They're going to continue to pressure this government and any government succeeding this government for those kinds of revenues, and rightfully so. If they can't raise it themselves, then they're going to turn back to the government and say: "Look, what are we to do? You take care of this problem." And I wouldn't blame them.

If that's what this government is trying to foster in our society, that people become even more reliant on government, then I say no. I say no to that approach to governance. It is entirely the opposite way in which we believe we should be moving it.

As I said earlier, charities are seeing government support steadily declining. It's not something you can look at lightly. There isn't enough money—it's scarce out there—and this is a serious matter for these organizations. It's not good enough to say to them, "Look, we will consult you. We'll bring you along in the process," and then turn around and say, "We need this money. We need this money for the general revenues."

Can't this government understand and realize that what's going to happen on the debit side will show up on the credit side and vice versa? If you don't pay it this way, you're going to pay it that way. Essentially, that's what's going to happen with charitable organizations. Or, worse than that, you're going to have a serious reduction in the level and standard of services which are provided by these organizations which—I hate to say this—we depend on.

Society is depending on them at an increasing level, unfortunately, but there are much more needy people today than there ever have been. These organizations fill in the gaps, fill in vacuums that are there as a result of the pressures on our society, the changes that we face in our society almost on a daily basis that result in real needs having grown and a real need for services to fill those needs.

Perhaps this government hasn't looked at these matters in the way it should. I am beginning to think this government just thinks: "We'll introduce these measures come what may. Let's not look at the impact. We have an agenda. We're going to follow it. This is our political agenda and that's that."

I say to the minister again that I can't understand why it's unreasonable—and is it so unreasonable?—to conduct full-scale impact studies on a variety of these questions before we move forward with such an initiative. I just simply can't understand that. I think it's appropriate.

I'm beginning, as I said, to feel that this government does what it has to do to get by, does what it has to do simply to meet its political agenda, does what it does and reverses itself when it needs to. I'm beginning to think that this administration and this party is a party of convenience. It brings about policies and initiatives when it's convenient in the face of principles and beliefs which were long held, throwing those things way out the window.

You can't even describe this as being pragmatic. That we can appreciate, being a party of pragmatists that we are, the Liberal Party. We pride ourselves on being pragmatists. We pride ourselves on finding real-world solutions, practical, realistic solutions. There's nothing wrong with that, but we can't figure you out. One day you're pragmatists; one day you're ideologues—for the most part you're ideologues—one day you say one thing and the next day you say another. I know all politicians are accused of doing that, talking from both sides of their mouths, but I say to this government that you have perfected it to an art form and currently it's on everybody's lips: how you've

reversed yourselves so completely and so thoroughly with respect to policies and principles that were long held.

It sort of has become: "Well, we'll do whatever gets us through the night"—that kind of an attitude—"just do whatever's convenient. On this day, we say this thing; on that day, we say another thing." That's not pragmatism, I'm sorry to tell you. That's not pragmatism. That's a lack of direction, a lack of leadership.

Many people have said that this Premier held great promise for a lot of people, and I admit that. When he was elected, people thought, "This is a Premier, a politician, who we can say has the kinds of principles and holds the kinds of beliefs we want to follow." But I say to the members of this government that what's on the lips of most people these days is that Bob Rae is like any other politician, and that's really disappointing. Worse than that, they can't figure out the direction they're going in. We can't figure out what kinds of policies we can rely on.

Are there any principles over there? Do you guys realize that people are quite confused about the direction in which you're taking this province? One day before the election you certainly weren't in favour of casino gambling and now you are. Before the election, you weren't in favour of shopping on Sundays and now you are, or supposedly we're going to have a free vote in this House to determine that.

Auto insurance, well, you wanted a public auto insurance plan and we certainly don't have that. Not that I'm in favour of that, don't get me wrong. But a lot of people out there have indicated and expressed their deep concern about the direction this government is setting; not so much the policies you're following, because some of the initiatives, a lot of people support. The auto insurance plan that was out there, that was in place, was working and I think a great number of people supported it. With respect to Sunday shopping—

1720

Mr Bradley: The member for Fort York is not listening.

Mr Cordiano: He's not listening. It's wise of them to pay attention, the members for Yorkview, Downsview etc. They should pay attention to this, because they're quite concerned about Sunday shopping. I believe they, as a result of their free vote, will express their opinions in this House freely. I'm sure they will reflect the views of the local constituencies they represent.

My friends, make the Premier aware of some of the things you are concerned about, make the Premier aware of some of the things you believe in, because ultimately it's only your beliefs that you can hold on to as you see your government reverse its policies, reverse its positions. You as a local member, as a backbench MPP, have got to be able to hold on to your views, those principles you hold dear.

Now, if you didn't have them, then we could appreciate your coming into this House, talking about casino gambling, talking about Sunday shopping with respect to the policies you're going to bring about, and the lack of public auto insurance etc. I would not be standing in my place today making this speech.

Mr Mammoliti: Is legal gambling—

Mr Cordiano: I'll tell you what's gambling. When the people of your constituency of Yorkview—

Mr Mammoliti: When people are gambling—

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Order. The honourable member has the floor. Please continue.

Mr Cordiano: The only gambling that took place so far that was of a serious consequence was when the people of Yorkview elected the member who is in place now. That was a serious gamble.

But of course we're going to have casino gambling in the province of Ontario. Then, I say to the members, you'll be able to gamble your lives away for good.

Mr Mammoliti: Thank God they gamble.

Mr Cordiano: I fear for you, because your government took away funding for addiction research and we no longer have that as an option for you if you do go out and become addicted to gambling in this province. I fear for you. I am concerned because quite frankly that is something which should not have been done.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. There are a lot of interjections; particularly from members who are not in their seats. That is totally out of order. Please, the honourable member for Lawrence has the floor.

Mr Cordiano: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'm certainly coming closer to the end of my remarks.

These matters are of a serious nature. It is important to understand that. Taking away funding for the addiction foundation which looked into matters associated with gambling is certainly something as well that the minister and this government and her colleagues should be looking at reinstating, in fact increasing funding for, because it's one of those negative impacts which will result in the kind of social ills that we do not want to see in this province.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. We will all have the opportunity to participate, but the honourable member for Lawrence now has the floor. Please allow him the opportunity to continue. We are on time allocation. The member for Lawrence.

Mr Cordiano: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'm glad that the members in the back benches have awakened themselves and have joined in the debate. This is truly becoming a debate.

I want to say to the minister that the funding that was there for the addiction research that was being conducted and the kind of efforts that we're going to need in the future with respect to that area are essential. I certainly hope, and I think all members of this House would support, I say to the government members who should be seriously questioning this, looking at the impacts, the real impacts that will result if you do have people who are addicted.

You need to look at the US example. There are people in the US, in and around Atlantic City and elsewhere, who do become addicted to gambling. That's not a fairy tale; that is a truth, that is a reality. To eliminate funding for that

very important organization which was conducting efforts to overcome addictions in that regard I think is totally irresponsible.

You can't take all the money from casino gambling, put it into the general revenue fund so that this government will be able to do whatever it wants with it without consideration for those social, negative impacts. One of them is the addiction, the possibility of being addicted to gambling. I think it's very important that the minister also look at the kinds of impacts, the real negative impacts, which will result on the local economy.

As I said earlier in my speech, just to come to a general conclusion about these things, the general impact on the local economy could be a negative one. She hails the advent of casino gambling as a direct stimulus to those local economies, a direct stimulus to the ravaged economy of Windsor.

The devastation that's been unleashed in the community of Windsor has the sympathy of all of us—not only there but throughout all the border communities that have severely been hurt by not only the recession but cross-border shopping. I understand the initiative to move forward with this is an effort to support and to get growth going in those economies again, but you're simply not giving me or anyone on this side of the House the kind of indications that would suggest you fully understand how best to bring this about, how best to manage this so we get the most positive results from it and the people of Windsor will benefit from the spinoffs.

The minister has said repeatedly that in the long run the people of Windsor will see this as their biggest gain. I say to you, Minister, that is certainly not clear. There's no evidence to suggest that in any jurisdiction—and I've pointed out that Manitoba has done things somewhat differently with respect to the impact on charities.

You have to understand that these things are for real. You're making decisions which I think will be unalterable and which we probably will have a difficult time coming back to and changing should we form the government, or should that party form the government or, in two or three years from now, heaven forbid, should you form the government.

Interjection.

Mr Cordiano: I say that in the most partisan way, yes, but I think it's important to realize that the role you're following, the route you're taking, is somewhat irreversible. The damage you will do we'll be hard pressed to turn back from.

When you look at Atlantic City and the dire consequences of casino gambling with respect to the local economy, I tell you, they're still reeling from the impact of that. It may have helped certain people with respect to the inflation of real estate prices and that, I hope, does not happen in the city of Windsor.

I hope you have a concise, well-thought-out plan which I would like to understand in advance of its being implemented. I think most people in this province would like to understand it because, as I said—I say and I repeat again, when you have this pilot project, moving forward

with it, the initiatives you've undertaken with respect to it, it will be very difficult if it should not succeed. The measures and the criteria you have not stated to determine whether it will be a success or failure, but I know this much: In committee meetings you have suggested, Madam Minister, that \$2.5 million or thereabouts has already been allocated with respect to this initiative; \$2.5 million to establish a project team. I believe part of that money was used to venture off to Las Vegas and to take part in a conference that was held in Las Vegas on casino gambling. Sending people away on conferences surely cannot be the sum total of all these studies you're undertaking.

1730

I think it would be prudent for the minister to talk to people and bring them into a process whereby we would have a total approach to this, an approach that would consider Atlantic City, other jurisdictions, the impacts, the total picture. That's what we need. We need the complete picture. We do not need tidbits of information that are held by the bureaucrats. That is fine, they need to get up to speed, but I say to you, Madam Minister, ensure that we know what we're doing before this becomes a fait accompli, as it will with the advent of the pilot project, the casino in Windsor.

Once you have placed it, once it's up and running, there's absolutely no way I can see any government then saying, "We're going to shut this thing down." Millions of untold dollars will have been spent starting the entire process, and once you've done that, I think it would be very difficult to say to people: "I'm sorry, but we just simply didn't know what we were dealing with. We simply misunderstood the impact this would have on the province or the lack of benefit that resulted"; in fact, as I pointed out earlier as well, the negative impact that does result.

It will be difficult for this government and that minister to explain why we simply couldn't do impact studies, a comprehensive analysis of what the world would look like. Governments do this all the time, Madam Minister. I'm sure you have studies that are done for you on a number of questions. Unless you're withholding those studies—I have requested that we see any studies you are conducting—or you change your mind and you're going to conduct studies, then I would appreciate learning about those and I would appreciate this government bringing those things forward for all to see. It's that important.

The magnitude of the question we're talking about relates directly to the negative impact this will have on charitable organizations. We'll deal with the impact of casino gambling. I'm sure we will be given an opportunity to deal with this in the casino act. I know the minister has committed to a complete and comprehensive public consultation process when that casino act comes forward.

I, for one, expect we will have a clearly planned public consultation hearings process so that all the people in the province who want to be involved in that, who want to have their say on this very significant and important subject, will be given the opportunity to make their views known, and this government will not try to have some sort of sham consultation process, which we know on this side you conducted with respect to Bill 40, the labour legisla-

tion. It was simply not good enough, and until we got it into public hearings, there wasn't an opportunity for people to consult.

We need public hearings when the casino act comes before us. We will demand that. We need to know that these things will be looked at, at least in a committee, in a public way.

To wrap up my comments, Madam Minister, we will be monitoring the impact on charitable organizations. We will want to know what process you undertake with these charitable organizations. You've suggested on a number of occasions that they will be included in the consultation process and that in fact you've consulted with some of them. I suggest to you that what's taken place thus far has not been fully considerate of the magnitude of this question. You simply haven't done that process, you haven't undertaken it in as comprehensive a way as should be the case.

I say, take great care in dealing with the impact that results to the charitable organizations. Take the time that is necessary to really understand what they're saying, to fully apprise yourself of the real, serious impact that will result from the decision to bring about casino gambling.

You've precluded the possibility of charitable organizations sharing any of the revenues that will be generated from the casinos that you will start in this province. You have not made those revenue-sharing agreements possible with the city. You have not suggested to the city of Windsor that it will share in that, that in fact some of the social ills will fall hard on those very charitable organizations that will be impacted. You've got to see this. In fact, they will be very hard pressed indeed to cope with the fallout from these initiatives. It will be very difficult for them to cope with this as their revenues decline, as the kinds of revenues and moneys that are available to them decline.

If you're not prepared to deal with the outcomes, then I say to you, do not devastate these charitable organizations, do not ransack their budgets, do not take from them what they have now, because that's what you're going to be doing once you bring about casino gambling: You're taking away from these organizations. You're not going to increase the numbers, and there won't be a bigger pie. It won't be that significant. The spinoff, as has been seen in other jurisdictions, is not greater.

I suggest to you we have a serious question here as to the spinoffs and the impact they will have on a local economy and the social questions, the social ills that will result from that. There is a serious question to be debated here. We need full public consultation in place, and I suggest to you, Madam Minister, that you make that commitment.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member's time is completed. Questions and/or comments?

Mr Tilson: I have listened, to some extent, to the member for Lawrence and his comments on this bill. I have agreed with him in estimates and in other hearings we've attended to with respect to gambling casinos in this province. He has indicated that he personally intends to support this bill, as do, presumably, members of his party.

I guess the question I have for the member is the unanswered question I have given the minister in this House and in estimates committee as to solving the confusion that has been created by this bill over what charitable organizations and sports groups and municipalities are allowed to do in terms of licensing lotteries for fund-raising purposes. That confusion still exists, and that hasn't been resolved by the minister and it hasn't been resolved in this House. Of course, I've spent some time in this House asking the minister to respond to those questions. I've asked her in estimates to respond to those questions.

Just the very issue of the fact that they put forward a consultation paper, then they put forward a bill, then they put forward a second consultation paper, yet we have no idea whether the minister is going to be submitting amendments to this bill that she has introduced as a result of the second consultation: We really have no idea about that. We seem to be plowing ahead with second reading. We don't know anything about that.

We don't know anything about the requirements that are being placed on both the municipality and the charitable and religious organizations in applying for a licence. We don't know about Nevada tickets, who can apply for and sell them. We don't know about sports lotteries. Can any charitable or sports association run one of these now under the bill? Since the bill hasn't received royal assent yet, are the requirements for licensing the same now, or will they apply after the bill has been passed?

I know the member is as passionately opposed to the proposals of gambling casinos as I am, but I would like to hear his comments on this confusion that's been created by this bill.

1740

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I just want to address very briefly the point that was brought up; I know it's come up before. The terms and conditions are very separate from this bill. It's very important—and of course I've discussed this with Mr Tilson before and somehow there continues to be a lack of understanding—that anybody who's listening to this understands that this bill is not about casinos, although people did take the opportunity, and that's fine, to discuss their feelings about casinos today; nothing to do with it whatsoever.

But also it's really very important to understand that the point just recently brought up is nothing to do with this bill, which is there solely to regulate the commercial sector, essentially. The terms and conditions would be going on anyway and we're still consulting around them. It's happening at this very time. The issues that are being raised are important ones, and they're important to the charities, but they have nothing to do with this bill.

An example was brought up earlier by Mr Mahoney. That is on the prize boards. That again, for instance, has been taken care of and dealt with under the terms and conditions. There have been consultations going on for years around this bill and on the terms and conditions and

the issue around the prize board. Not everybody's going to agree at the end of the day, I suppose. This was a request from the charities. We are again consulting on that very issue. It will not be included in this bill. It will be included in the terms and conditions. We're hoping that at the end of the day we can have a prize board that will satisfy everybody. It's nothing to do with this ministry or what this government would prefer in the prize boards, for instance, but it's what the charities wanted us to look at, and we're doing so.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? Seeing none, the honourable member for Lawrence has two minutes in reply.

Mr Cordiano: I just want to say to the minister that she is introducing this piece of legislation, and obviously she's going to see our support for this. But I want to point out one thing that is very important. The consultation process is not something that was undertaken by this government alone. The consultation with organizations has been and was undertaken very extensively by our government, so that when you got to this stage there was a record of consultation which brought us to this stage.

That is not the case, as I pointed out in my speech, with respect to the impact that casino gambling is going to have, and Bill 26 is very appropriate to deal with this matter on this day. On the one hand you're trying to give something to the charitable organizations in the form of Bill 26, and that is of some value and of some assistance. I supported that and I said our party would support that. That's why we've tried to give speedy passage to this piece of legislation.

It's because we're so concerned about the negative impact your casino gambling act will have, once you introduce it, on these very organizations which you attempt to help today that we want this to move forward. But don't get a mistaken impression. I don't want you to leave a mistaken impression out there that you've consulted with these charitable organizations on the subject of the negative impact that casino gambling will have on them. They are deeply concerned, I repeat again. You simply have not dealt with their concerns, and they say to us that you have no process in place by which they can express their views up to this point. You may have had some meetings with some of them, but I say, a lot is to be desired in the consultation that has taken place with you to this point.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on Bill 26, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Gaming Services? The honourable member for St Catharines.

Mr Bradley: I look up at the clock, annoyed that there's the usual amount of time left in this House to debate a bill of this importance, and of course it all comes down to the new rules Bob Rae has brought into the Legislature which now force people to be allocated certain periods of time. I thought the system used to work quite well before, with a couple of aberrations, where things used to pass through this Legislature rather rapidly. But we obviously have a situation now where I'm going to speak on this bill for some period of time, regardless of what Bob Rae thinks I should be doing, because I think it's a

very important bill that has been brought forward before the House.

The problem as exists is one which has been known for some period of time, and that is that charities and other groups and organizations have experienced some problems with certain gaming practices. Successive governments—Conservative, Liberal and NDP—have looked at this problem with a view to addressing it without causing great problems for legitimate organizations.

The example we brought to their attention was the junior B hockey team—or junior B baseball, lacrosse, soccer, softball; you name the sport—where the people were able to carry on their function because they were allowed to have a bingo. There was a threat out there that it would be taken away. Those of us in the opposition who rose in the House on many occasions have obviously persuaded the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations that she should not do in those various organizations, which were threatened by government action. Those in opposition, particularly my colleagues the Consumer and Commercial Relations critic, the member for Lawrence, the member for Mississauga West and others, have put sufficient pressure on the government that it has decided to back down in its threats to junior B teams, junior C teams and so on, and if anything has been achieved by the opposition, we can say that has been achieved and compliment the minister on seeing that is the way things should be.

I want to also deal very briefly—and I say “very briefly”—with children gambling, people under the age of 18 gambling. My colleague the member for Mississauga West has seen that we now have youngsters in high school—you talk to them in various locations when they’re gathered together—talking about how they can bet on games. This is under the new lottery we have out in the province of Ontario. I thought speedy passage this afternoon—I would certainly have been silent on this—of his bill, which would prohibit people under the age of 18 from gambling in this way, would have been a good piece of legislation to deal with this afternoon. I hope the government sees that that view, as well as our view on the junior B bingos, will be sustained as well.

I keep thinking of the people in the New Democratic Party, which has a long tradition, back in the CCF, of opposition to gambling. I’d be interested to see their reactions. Some are no longer alive today, but I could imagine the reaction of many of them to the installation of a government-run casino in one part of the province and potentially in many other parts of the province.

I know my former Latin teacher, Vince Dugo, would be asking the question in Latin, “Quo vadis? Whither goest thou?” when looking at the government. Another teacher of mine, whom I used to refer to as a parlour socialist, Norm Sheffe—excellent individual, taught me virtually everything I know about history and was a major influence in my life—was a CCFer or, as I referred to him, a parlour socialist, who certainly I think would recoil at the prospect of an NDP government bringing in casino gambling. M.J. Coldwell, the former leader of the New Democratic Party, or at least its predecessor, the CCF; Harold Winch in Vancouver East; H.W. Herridge in the Kootenays; J.S.

Woodsworth; Bob Carlin—sorry, Bob Carlin was kicked out of the NDP for being too left-wing. He was a very good member for the area of Sudbury when he was the member for Sudbury, but he was too left for the NDP, and if he saw them in action today, he would certainly be rolling over in his grave, because he did pass away very recently. Tommy Douglas, David Lewis, Stanley Knowles, Fred Young—good former member from Yorkview—Jack Stokes, Melville “Bud” Germa, Marion Bryden, Bill Temple: All of these people were strong CCFers who stood for something and stood against something: stood against casino gambling in this province.

I’m told the person who used to be most opposed to casino gambling in the province of Ontario in the NDP caucus meetings was none other than Premier Bob Rae, and today we see his government allowing casino gambling.

1750

There’s a problem with casino gambling which is different. If I were a government member, I wouldn’t want you to believe that there won’t be a vote this afternoon. There might well be a vote this afternoon. But the problem with casino gambling, as I see it—and it’s part of this whole gaming exercise we’re talking about today—is that, first of all, it’s a different kind of gambling. It’s glamorous. It attracts people who might not otherwise be attracted to gambling. To those who are addicted to gambling it is probably the highest form, the most excitement that can exist.

I don’t think my friend the member for Mississauga West will mind my sharing an observation he made to me in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. He said, “In investigation of this I went to see what a casino gambling establishment would be like, because they were talking about ones in the Sault, Ontario, Windsor, the Niagara Peninsula and the Ottawa area.”

He concluded, and I think I’m quoting him fairly correctly, “The very people who shouldn’t be in a casino were the people who were in the casino.” The very people who couldn’t afford to be squandering their money on gambling were those who were addicted to it and were in the casino. That’s what you people are promoting when you promote casino gambling in this province.

If you spoke to those families which have an addiction to gambling or where there’s somebody in the family who’s addicted to it and who may be embezzling funds from a place of work or from a service organization to pay for this form of gambling, you would know that this new policy of the government is not a wise one in the long run. Yes, it will produce some revenue for the Minister of Revenue and for the Treasurer, no question about it, but at what price socially will it produce that amount of money that the Treasurer desires?

We also take away, as my friend the member for Lawrence has said, from the local organizations—for instance, the Grantham Lions Club and the Grantham Optimist Club in my community—that have had casino nights. How many people are going to be attracted to that casino when they see a government casino down in Niagara Falls, for instance, if the government were thinking of putting it there? There’s no question that there are only so many

dollars out there and that those dollars are going to be attracted to a government casino.

There's the argument that we're going to get all this American money or all the money from Quebec, Manitoba or wherever coming into our establishment. If you think that within weeks of establishing a casino in a border area in Ontario you're not going to get one in the adjacent jurisdiction, you're very naïve, because that's precisely what will happen. So the only financially compelling reason for having such an establishment is removed when the competition moves in.

Everyone who has been associated with casino gambling indicates that you will see organized crime move into a community. In my view, Ontario will be no exception if you implement casino gambling. I think members of the government should remember what Bob Rae used to say in caucus, what Bob Rae used to say when he went to the provincial council, what Bob Rae used to say at a full convention of the New Democratic Party and what his predecessors—good people like Mel Swart, who I'm sure would be opposed to casino gambling and has publicly indicated his opposition to it—had to say.

I hope that you will take that into consideration and that the NDP, which has always featured itself as the party of principle, not the party of expediency, will look carefully at the potential social consequences of casino gambling in this province and will withdraw from this particular initiative, which is attractive in terms of gathering funds but negative in terms of its social consequences for this province.

As for this particular bill, it is a result of a lot of consultation from various governments. The problems have been there. All of us hope that what has been brought forward by the minister in the form of this bill will solve many of those problems, and we all know there have been. Each one of us knows privately and publicly that there have been problems with gaming practices in this province.

This bill attempts to address that. This bill doesn't do what we had feared it was going to do initially, rob various service organizations and athletic teams of the opportunity to gain funds through working at bingos and holding bingos, and it might well have a positive effect to the province.

That is why our member, our critic in the field of Consumer and Commercial Relations, has indicated that we will be supporting this bill. I only implore the government: When you're thinking about this bill and some of the minor problems you're trying to solve with this, look at the potential major problems that could ensue from casino gambling in good old Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Dufferin-Peel.

Mr Tilson: I think the member for St Catharines has raised some points dealing with how much are we going to trust this government with respect to the regulation of this bill. I think that's the real fear: most of this bill is the unknown. A lot of it's being assigned into regulations, the bureaucrats, the very cabinet, orders in council will be passed. We'll have no opportunity to debate many of the issues that are coming forward. I think that's the fear of

many of the service clubs, charities and religious organizations that get into fund-raising around this province.

Even the whole fact of identification—and that's the one fear that has been repeated to me on many occasions, specifically section 6 which has to do with the application for registration. That has to do with personal identification in such form as the regulations prescribed. That's the fear of the rumour that's been flying around, that they're going to put forward a regulation that's going to require fingerprinting in this province.

There are other areas that we're assigning to the bureaucrats and this government which will never come back to be debated in this House. We're assigning it to the bureaucrats and the members of this government in passing the regulations with respect to this bill. Another one has to do with the registration of gaming assistance in section 11 that regulations are going to be passed there.

It goes on through other sections. An identification card is going to be required which again will be at the whim of the government and the bureaucrats as to the form.

Finally, the very general section, section 48, which simply lists all the various things that are going to be required under this bill. We have a great deal of concern as to how much we are going to trust this government with. Would you trust this government with all of these matters?

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: I want to very briefly take a moment to expand on the comments made by the member for St Catharines and to congratulate him on his comments. I know he feels very strongly in relationship to casinos and that he personally is opposed to it and has publicly said he would fight that concept and I respect him for that. My concern about casinos is perhaps less based on my ideology of the issue rather than the fact he pointed out.

When I recently had to go to my home town of Sault Ste Marie to attend the funeral of my uncle, we did go over. I didn't ever realize there was a casino in Sault, Michigan. It's been so many years in fact since I've been in Sault, Michigan. A friend of mine said, "Do you want to go see it?" I did. I don't enjoy gambling. Frankly, I don't like to lose. So I generally—

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): How much did you win?

Mr Mahoney: Nothing. I just don't enjoy that, but I went over and it's an exercise that the members in the back benches of the NDP should go through. You should go and see it. It's not a Las Vegas style; it's on a reserve. It's run by the natives and frankly it's quite spectacular. I was very much impressed with the professional level at which everything was run.

But what concerned me is exactly what my colleague pointed out. We sort of did an analysis, unprofessional, just sort of by looking and talking to people as to who was there. I can tell you there were a lot of people who were unemployed, as there are in Sault Ste Marie, and they were most of the folks in this place. It was a Monday night; it

goes 24 hours. Most of them were from the Sault, Canada, a lot of them who are laid off from their jobs at the plant, who are desperate, who are taking some unemployment money and gambling it, and you've just got to feel for them.

There's more to this than meets the eye, and I hope this government will take that into account and certainly look to the opinions of the people in the community before just deciding to oppose casino gambling.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for St Catharines has two minutes. He does not need his two minutes. Further de-

bate? Would the minister have some closing remarks? The minister does not have closing remarks.

Ms Churley has moved second reading of Bill 26, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Gaming Services.

Shall the motion carry? Carried.

Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Hon Ms Churley: No, Mr Speaker, committee of the whole.

The Acting Speaker: So ordered. It now being past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, November 17, at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1802.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités par intérim: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Larry	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Peter	ND	
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale	Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	L ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim
Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York	Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario	PC L ND	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey Guelph	Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek	PC ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord	Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel	L ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND ND ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles Kitchener	Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary Ferguson, Will	L ND ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence	Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph	PC L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman. Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

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Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 17 November 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 17 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 17 November 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Statements by members. The member for Brampton North.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I see four government members. I don't believe we even have a quorum for this session of the Legislature.

The Speaker: Quorum count.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Ms Deborah Deller): A quorum is not present.

The Speaker: Call in the members.

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: A quorum is now present, Mr Speaker.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

PAROLE OFFICERS

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I rise today to speak on a very important issue. It's the question of probation officers and the credentials they require.

The former Solicitor General, followed up by the new Solicitor General, has advanced the proposition that probation officers should not require any formal education. I understand it's under review and it's been raised by my friend the member for London South in terms of young people who perhaps are taking courses with a view to becoming probation officers and being disappointed.

I suggest it has far greater ramifications than that. The probation officer's report is the foundation on which a judge makes a determination of how to deal with a person in a criminal trial. More important than that, it is the foundation on which the parole board members, who are laypeople, make a determination of whether a person should be released conditionally, unconditionally or not released at all.

I suggest that this Minister of Correctional Services had better realize that it's not just a question of making jobs available for people who perhaps are supporters of his, but of maintaining the integrity of the system and ensuring that there will not be people released into the streets to commit crimes such as the tragic event of the Stephenson boy in my community and other events that will take place, I suggest, if the probation officer's report is done by someone who does not have the appropriate background and education.

I suggest it's a matter of justice—the Minister of Correctional Services had better understand that—and it's not just a question of making everything the same for everybody else.

JOBS ONTARIO

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): We know that the Jobs Ontario program is not creating the jobs promised by the government for this fiscal year. One

part of the province which is suffering to a greater degree than most others is that part of eastern Ontario outside of Ottawa in the area I represent.

At around 20% unemployment, which is the rate in Cornwall and area, it is worse than in Sudbury, Windsor or Hamilton; 37% of families in the Cornwall area are on some form of social assistance. In the textile industry alone, some 3,000 eastern Ontario jobs have disappeared in the last three years.

The day after royal assent was given to the labour reform bill, Courtaulds Fibres announced the closure of its Cornwall rayon mill, leaving 360 employees without work. The jobs moved to a US plant where labour costs are actually higher.

The problem is that this government still fails to realize the importance of building investor and employer confidence. Not one legislative initiative has been taken by this government to make Ontario a more attractive investment place. Not one budget initiative has been announced that will help create private sector jobs.

The Jobs Ontario program is founded on the belief that government can buy its way out of a recession without taking any other measures whatever. Governments can help, but this government has not.

The Jobs Ontario Capital fund spoke about safe drinking water. But farm wells in Ontario show a large number are contaminated. We do need help from this government.

CAMERON WATSON

Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East): I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Mr Cameron Watson. Maybe some members of this House have already come across Mr Watson. He can be found in the St Lawrence Market on Saturdays where he sells the apples that he grows within the riding of Scarborough East.

His commercial orchard is located in a residential area and remains a viable operation. To spend time there is a real education about the varieties of apples and the challenges of growing and marketing them. Mr Watson frequently receives school parties and is a valuable resource for city children, helping them to understand food production. Centennial Creek passes through his property and he contributes to conserving it. He is deeply committed to animal welfare and helps individuals advocate for it.

I do not draw the attention of the House to Mr Watson and his work just as a sentimental reminder of the past. Economic and ecological needs should make us look seriously at urban food production. Jane Jacobs reminds us that viable city neighbourhoods require a mixture of uses: economic and residential. The Sewell commission is looking at the preservation of farm land and the avoidance of urban sprawl.

I'd like to make a note of the example that Mr Watson has been able to show us right here in Metropolitan

Toronto and hope that the valuable resource he provides will continue indefinitely.

EDUCATION POLICY

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I rise today to address the current confusion that surrounds the education community in this province. Every day I meet various stakeholders who ask me what this government plans to do to improve the quality of education in this province. We really don't know what its plans are and frankly we don't think it does either.

Let me recap some of the events that have led to this confusion. School boards have been waiting for capital announcements since earlier this year. This minister first said it would be June, but nothing happened. He even indicated in estimates in July that the announcement would be forthcoming, but nothing happened. He sent a letter to opposition parties in October stating that the announcement would be made in early November, but nothing happened. To this date we have yet to see anything.

The minister has also introduced destreaming, but he has yet to offer definitive answers to questions as basic as what is it and when will it be fully implemented? The reality is that school boards, parents, educators and students don't know what the minister's definition of destreaming is because he has not provided one. At a recent meeting the minister and one of his assistant deputy ministers could not even agree on the implementation date for destreaming.

School boards are troubled, to say the least. Now boards are panicking as there has been some suggestion that transfer payments may not be the 2% promised in last year's budget, but no one knows anything for certain.

It's time for clear action on school capital, transfer payments, destreaming and curriculum reform. Minister, students, parents, teachers and trustees are waiting. What is your response?

VELMA MITGES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I'm sorry to inform the House that Grey and Owen Sound lost one of the leaders of our community when Velma Mitges, wife of Gus Mitges, MP for Bruce-Grey, recently passed away.

Mrs Mitges was a true inspiration to her community and will be sadly missed by her many friends. She was a former city councillor in Owen Sound, a member of the children's aid society board, the library board and the waste recycling committee. She belonged to the women's hospital auxiliary and she owned and operated a downtown restaurant.

But perhaps her greatest contribution to her community was her extensive involvement with the arts. As a founder and past president of the Owen Sound Little Theatre, Velma was in part responsible for its fine reputation. The Minister of Culture and Communications will remember that I have praised this theatre in the House before, when I advised her that this cultural centre in our community badly needs a small capital grant to assist it in providing, among other things, further access for the disabled.

1340

I notice that the minister has not responded either to my statement or to two of my subsequent letters on the subject. However, she has managed to find the resources to give \$30 million to renovate the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto. If she can find the money for this, I cannot understand why she ignores the Owen Sound Little Theatre, which is administered and maintained by volunteers and which is so vital in stimulating the life of the city's downtown core.

Velma Mitges loved the Little Theatre. I am hopeful that to honour her memory, the minister will finally agree to help the theatre to continue to delight and educate and to provide a love of culture and the arts to many.

ONTARIO-ALSACE ASSOCIATION

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): Almost two centuries ago, pioneer families founded the communities of the Waterloo region. Many of those founding families came from what is now the French province of Alsace. Lutherans, Mennonites and Catholics all came from France to Canada. The names that came down to us through the decades remain as landmarks in our region, but the historical connection was often forgotten.

However, five years ago a young French couple began to forge those links anew. André and Michelle Spetz discovered that one of their ancestral relatives, Théobald Spetz, had emigrated to North America, where he helped to found the village of St Agatha. In 1991 the Spetzes contacted Lynn Myers, mayor of Wilmot township, with an invitation to bring a delegation to Alsace to help strengthen the long-dormant ties between the two districts.

From that experience was born the Ontario-Alsace Association, the Waterloo region counterpart to the Alsace-Ontario group in France. The president is Mary Knowles. Other executive members include Lynn Myers, Glennis Yantzi, Jean-Pierre and Diane Traendlin, Trudy Gross, Dieter Euler and Paul Knowles.

A highlight of the association's activities this year was the return visit of 38 Alsatians in August. Several highly placed French representatives, including Jean-Paul Heider, vice-president of the regional council of Alsace and responsible for international relations, and Jean Klinkert, head of tourism for Alsace, both expressed confidence that tourism and trade links will now flourish between the provinces of Ontario and Alsace.

Special thanks go to Mary Knowles and the many local residents and businesses whose contributions made the 10-day experience possible.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): In a movement of judgement, I'm going to temper my remarks as a result of—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Oh, don't do that.

Mr Mahoney: Just a little bit. I have some concerns. You may recall Bill 92, which is the private member's bill I introduced to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act

that would prohibit the sale of lottery tickets to our young people in this province, has been introduced for first reading.

It was my understanding from the government House leader that he and members of the government were going to do anything they could to bring that bill in here for unanimous agreement. I've been informed by him this morning that he doesn't really consider it a crisis. The Ontario Lottery Corp has only received six complaints and, furthermore, some lawyer in their bureaucracy is afraid of a challenge to the charter, that young people may take offence that they're not able to gamble in the corner stores.

What I take from that is that the House leader is using it as a poker chip to try to set his own agenda, or the government, perhaps the Treasurer, is concerned about loss of revenue from all the money the kids are spending in the corner stores, or perhaps this government really doesn't believe this is serious.

I would invite the House leader and the Treasurer to go to any corner store in the city of Toronto or Mississauga or anywhere else where this lottery is available right after school today and see what kind of crisis it is. You'll see the kids lining up to bet their lunch money, and this government can put a stop to it with a very simple action. Bring in Bill 92 now.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): The NDP denial that extensive welfare fraud exists in Ontario is entirely in keeping with a government which is mismanaging the trust of the taxpayers. For example, unemployment insurance applicants who collect welfare for eight to twelve weeks before receiving their retroactive benefit cheques are required to pay back the amount they receive in welfare. Few are doing so, which results in the loss of millions of dollars by municipalities and the province.

In September of this year, Hamilton-Wentworth region instituted a dual-income repayment scheme, the first of its kind in Canada, to recover welfare from unemployment insurance recipients. This will save the region and the province, which pays 80% of the welfare bill, more than \$1 million annually. I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hamilton mayor Bob Morrow and his council and Alderman Dominic Agostino for their important cost-saving initiative. It has been calculated that if Metro Toronto followed this lead and implemented the same program, it could save the province \$40 million and the municipality \$10 million on its welfare rolls alone.

According to a recently leaked memo, the NDP Ministry of Community and Social Services will be cutting nearly \$1 billion from such programs as women's shelters, children's aid societies, training for the disabled and home care for the elderly. Marion Boyd, like her predecessor, refuses to work with the municipalities on this initiative.

Treasurer, don't cut these programs; reduce the fraud and abuse in our welfare system. That's where you'll find the money to preserve our social services in this province.

JOBS ONTARIO

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I rise today to compliment the Treasurer and the Minister of Skills Develop-

ment on the Jobs Ontario Training fund and the success it is having in my riding of Cambridge and in the regional municipality of Waterloo. In total, 2,000 new jobs are expected in the Waterloo region in the very near future because of this innovative program. Two important Cambridge employers, John Forsyth Co and Terra Plastics, have already received grants and are actively involved in working with the government to get people back to work.

The program is not just for big business. Many small businesses are taking advantage of Jobs Ontario as well. The Waterloo region is currently working with over 30 employers, who will create 60 new jobs through Jobs Ontario, and it has received calls from another 160 employers who want to be part of it.

The region, the employers, the people who will be employed as a direct result of this program of consultative partnership between government and business: Businesses are getting help in upgrading the skills of their workforce, the region is reducing the number of unemployed residents, workers are getting an opportunity to get back to work and learn new skills, and indeed many companies, large and small, are receiving a very timely stimulus.

Despite the criticisms of the opposition members, who are looking for overnight solutions, this program is working and it will prove to be an excellent investment for our most important resource, the people of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Statements by ministers. The Treasurer.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

NATIONAL HIGHWAY INITIATIVE

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was carried away with the enthusiasm of the member for Cambridge.

Last February, Premier Bob Rae urged first ministers to consider capital infrastructure projects that would stimulate economic renewal and create badly needed jobs. At the first ministers' conference on the economy on March 25, first ministers agreed that investing in infrastructure to create short-term and long-term economic benefits is a priority for Canada. The federal government has since proposed to the provinces a \$14-billion national highway initiative, but the federal offer is both insufficient for economic renewal and unfair to Ontario.

First of all, it is too narrow in focus. The federal proposal falls well short of the broader infrastructure initiative suggested by Ontario and discussed by first ministers. First ministers agreed that forms of infrastructure other than highways, such as municipal infrastructure, information technologies and other types of traditional physical infrastructure, be looked at as well. Second, the first ministers emphasized the need to link infrastructure with the changing economy. The federal proposal does not do this. Third, the amount allocated to Ontario in the current federal proposal is unfair to the citizens of this province.

Ontario accounts for 37% of the population of Canada, Ontario taxpayers contribute 43% of federal revenues, yet

under the federal proposal Ontario would only receive 15% of federal money. This was emphasized over and over again by our Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Gilles Pouliot, in Quebec City at a meeting of transportation ministers. Any program that offers New Brunswick more than \$750 per capita, as this one does, and offers Ontario only \$64 per capita is by anyone's standard clearly inequitable.

In addition, considering that 80% of the jobs lost in the recession have been in Ontario, a 15% share of a national job creation program for Ontario barely begins to meet our requirements.

1350

Of the \$14 billion to be spent on upgrading Canada's national highways over 10 years under the federal proposal, \$7 billion would have been spent by provinces anyway. The remaining \$7 billion would be shared equally between the federal government and the provinces. For Ontario, this means \$62 million annually in federal spending over the next 10 years. That is simply not enough. And the narrow focus on four-lane highways means that this investment may not go towards the most economically beneficial projects.

The federal proposal lacks a vision of what could be done to promote economic development. However, I should add parenthetically that the Prime Minister, in his comments last night to an important event, announced that he seemed to be having a broader vision of what was required, so we'll have to wait and see how events unfold.

Infrastructure such as public transit, roads and highways have long been important to economic development. It is for that reason that we must continually upgrade existing infrastructure. But we must also respond to the need for new kinds of infrastructure.

This government recognizes that in the emerging information-based economy, innovations in telecommunications benefit productivity in all parts of the economy. In today's world, infrastructure investment should include a substantial commitment to new information technologies.

We have already undertaken initiatives in many of these areas. But given the tremendous importance of these investments to people in all parts of the country and also given their costs, it is imperative that the federal government also be involved.

A national infrastructure initiative is badly needed, but it must be done properly. We must ensure that economic renewal is the number one priority of such a program. We ask that the federal government re-examine its offer in light of the economic needs of the country and of this province.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I am pleased to respond. My opening comment would be, "Here we go again." It was just over a year ago that the Premier in the House said: "It may be politically convenient for both governments to take shots at each other, but the public interest demands cooperation. Finger-pointing is a luxury our economy cannot afford. We must improve the climate for jobs and investment and increase the level of trust

between the economic partners." That was the Premier of Ontario a year ago.

I would just say that I think the people out there understand that the time of finger-pointing is over. We demand cooperation between the levels of government.

In the statement by the Treasurer, he also says, "The federal proposal lacks a vision of what could be done to promote economic development." I would say to the Treasurer that a year ago, in that same statement, the Premier said, "Renewing our economy must be the central focus of our work as a province," and he promised that you would have your economic renewal plan a year ago.

Then in the speech from the throne, which was again the Premier's text read by the Lieutenant Governor—this was dated April 6—once again the Premier promised. He said, "My government has already launched an economic renewal plan," which we still have not seen, and, "There is no subject more important to the people of Ontario than getting our economy back to health." After that speech, we still haven't seen the economic renewal plan.

Mr Speaker, I think you'll remember, the Premier, right after the referendum debate, said, "We must now turn our attention to the economy," and again promised that we would see the economic renewal plan. We still have not seen it.

I would say to the Treasurer, we understand why you are mad at the federal government—because it's convenient—but to say that the federal proposal lacks a vision of what could be done to promote the economy—and we have still to see your plan, the Premier's plan, for the economy.

Treasurer, you said in your budget plan that the whole idea of building jobs would be through your Ontario capital plan. I would say again, in the numbers that the Treasurer himself released just a week ago, we now see substantially less money spent in capital in the province of Ontario this year than last year. All we're saying to the government is, come clean with the people. There are no new jobs in the Ontario capital program. There is less money being spent in the capital program than last year.

Finally, regarding the promised plan by the Premier on economic renewal, we've seen two parts of it so far. We've seen two budgets, both of which are now proving to have been major mistakes, and we have seen the partnership bill, the bill that was going to establish better working relationships in the workplace. That was something called Bill 40, the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments. Never before have we seen the business community and the labour community so divided.

The Premier promised that we would see all of the training programs, something called OTAB, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. We have not even seen the legislation. We are months away from that legislation being passed in the House. It has not even been debated, not even introduced, and that was something the Premier promised. The Premier promised that we would see a whole section of venture capital funds. We haven't seen that.

I find it mildly hollow when the Treasurer attacks the federal government for lack of vision. We are waiting for the Premier's plans. He promised them a year ago in the

speech that I've quoted. He promised them in the speech from the throne. He promised them after the referendum. All we've seen are two parts of the plan, neither of which is working, both of which are failing.

We insist, we demand that the Premier come forward with his economic renewal plan as soon as he returns from Japan. In the meantime, we appreciate the Treasurer attacking the federal government and attempting to get more money out of the federal government, but I would say to him that the people of Ontario took the Premier at his word when he said the time for finger-pointing is over, the time for cooperation is at hand.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Because the Treasurer's statement concerned roads, I want to use the remaining few moments of this to report to him, as the finance minister for this province, that in my part of eastern Ontario the concern that people have today about roads is that the winter maintenance budgets of the department of highways for the province of Ontario have been so constrained that the health and safety of the motoring public across Ontario, and particularly in my part of the province, are in jeopardy according to, among others, police officers—

The Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr Conway: —who are reporting as recently as this weekend that those budgets are so constrained—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. Responses, third party.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): In reading the news release and hearing the Treasurer's statement today, I think it's ironic that we have heard in this Legislature so often that this recession is worldwide, North America-wide, Canada-wide, yet we see an admission in his statement that 80% of the jobs lost in this recession have been in Ontario. What more do we need from the Treasurer than an admission of the failure of his policies and the policies of this Ontario government?

Next, I'd like to say the headline of his press release reads: "Ontario asks Ottawa to Re-examine National Highway Program." We would like in this Legislature for this government to re-examine some of its own programs. Why don't you examine Bill 40 and the disastrous effect that it's having? Why don't you examine your Jobs Ontario program which has produced a wonderful 675 jobs, a billion-dollar program? Why don't you examine what OTAB is doing and not doing?

I think one of the worst parts of this kind of approach by a government at this time is the sad fact that during the late 1980s, neither our federal government nor our provincial government under the Liberals put away money for a rainy day. We are now in those rainy days. If we had put away money for those rainy days, if David Peterson had not increased spending at an alarming rate, we would have the money to undertake these programs on our own.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Norm, over there.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Sterling: All the problems are not over there; a lot of the problems are to my right and are in the Liberal Party. They caused a lot of this spending.

1400

I'd like to say that my party has continued to say to this government, "Do not look to Ottawa for more programs." On any program that the national government brings forward Ontario pays a disproportionate share of a national program, yet we continue to have a Premier who is chagrined at the deal he's getting in this case but continues to call for additional national programs to spend money.

Hon Mr Laughren: No, they called for it.

Mr Sterling: We can guarantee you, Mr Treasurer, that on any national program you are going to get a raw deal. We are going to pay more than we get, so stop calling for the national government to spend more and more money. You have set forward a pattern and invited the federal government to put forward this program and now are angry because you're not getting a fair share. You are getting what you deserve in this case with regard to that.

Lastly, I want to say that I don't think that this government has been able to negotiate a fair share for Ontario with regard to this particular program.

The Speaker: Further response?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I would like to add my comments to this. I would hardly think that this House needs to hear, in the words of the Treasurer, a lecture on capital financing and debt financing and programs to put this economy back on the right track. This is the capital program that you announced, where you said you spent \$123 million so far this year of \$500 million. Where's that program?

Jobs Ontario is a dismal flop—\$1 billion for 675 jobs. Now we have to listen to you, who have very difficult trouble with simple mathematics, start lecturing this House and the federal government on how to implement capital programs when you, beyond a shadow of a doubt, have been the biggest flop at introducing any of these programs—the biggest flop.

So, Mr Speaker, pardon me if, when this Treasurer gets up and lectures anybody on finances, capital funding, I look at him as if he's got two heads, because I can't listen to these lectures any more.

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I invite all members to welcome a very special visitor to our midst this afternoon, seated in the Speaker's gallery, the Right Honourable Bernard Weatherill, the former Speaker of the British House of Commons and now a distinguished member of the House of Lords. Welcome to our chamber.

ONTARIO HYDRO PRESIDENT

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): Mr Speaker, I rise today on a point of privilege. I submit to you that my rights as a member of this Legislature generally and specifically as a member of an opposition party have been infringed. I feel that this is a matter of grave importance

and I will provide you with the essential facts in order that you may be able to give it your careful consideration.

This breach of my privileges took place yesterday during a sitting of the standing committee on resources development, on which I sit as the Liberal Party whip. Our committee was dealing with a standing order 125 matter, which, as you know, Mr Speaker, is the only means by which any member of an opposition party can compel the government to consider a matter and hear from witnesses from whom the government would otherwise prefer not to hear.

Prior to yesterday's meeting, the resources development committee had requested that nine witnesses appear before us in connection with a 125 procedure invoked by a member of the third party. The purpose of our hearings was to inquire into the circumstances surrounding Al Holt's sudden departure as president of Ontario Hydro.

Eleven hours were set aside to hear from these witnesses. Because the committee had concerns relating to the witnesses' disclosure of certain information relating to Al Holt's severance package and also relating to discussions between members of Hydro's board of directors, we prudently obtained two independent legal opinions on this issue. Both legislative counsel and the Information and Privacy Commissioner advised our committee in writing that we had every right to obtain the information we were seeking from the witnesses and that there was no legal impediment in the way of our doing so.

Yesterday, however, we learned by way of letters from five witnesses that they were refusing to attend because they felt to do so would place them in breach of either a law or some contractual obligation.

The historical genesis of standing order 125 is most relevant to my point of privilege and I will touch on this briefly. My research has led me to conclude that standing order 125 formed an integral part of the rule changes passed with all-party support in this Legislature in 1989. Those rule changes were brought about after lengthy negotiations between the three parties, and the final package represented the removal of some of the traditional rights held by the opposition and a replacement of these rights by others.

Specifically, as compensation for a new time limit of 30 minutes on the ringing of bells, 15 minutes on the reading of daily petitions and the elimination of the right to challenge you, Mr Speaker, the opposition parties were awarded the right to invoke opposition days and a very important right to compel the government, through a standing committee, to consider any matter of any member's choosing. This last right was incorporated in standing order 123, lately renumbered as 125.

My research shows that it was never contemplated by the three parties that the exercise of this new 125 right by any opposition member could be deliberately thwarted by the government's refusal to take the necessary steps to ensure that the witnesses sought to be questioned appear before our committee.

In the resources development committee yesterday, the government members emasculated the process available to an opposition party under standing order 125. The government effectively said that we, as members of the opposition,

can invoke the 125 procedure and request witnesses before us, but it will do nothing to compel those witnesses to attend.

Two motions supported by the opposition parties requested that you, as Speaker of this House, issue warrants to secure the attendance of these witnesses before our committee in keeping with your authority to do so. Both motions were defeated by the government members, notwithstanding that the second motion contained a provision that we, members of the opposition parties—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member take his seat for a moment. The member brings a very serious point to my attention and I would appreciate it if members would allow me the opportunity to hear him.

Mr McGuinty: I was saying that both motions were defeated by the government members, notwithstanding that the second motion contained a provision that we, members of the opposition parties, would ask no questions of the witnesses regarding Mr Holt's severance package.

It is also noteworthy that these motions were defeated, notwithstanding that the Chair of our committee, as you well know, retains the right to disallow questions he feels are inappropriate, and that our committee could, if necessary, move in camera to hear from witnesses on certain matters.

It has now become apparent that our committee will shortly receive written confirmation that none of the eight witnesses who were yet to appear before our committee will agree to attend. The net result is that although the Minister of Energy assured this House on November 2 that our "hearing would reveal all," out of a total of 11 scheduled hours of witnesses we will hear nothing more than the 53 minutes taken up yesterday by the minister himself.

Yesterday, the government effectively and in a very deliberate manner shut our committee's inquiry down. I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that by any objective standard, in our committee yesterday my rights as a member of this Legislature and specifically my rights as a member of the opposition to compel the government to consider a matter under standing order 125 were denied.

There is another aspect of this matter, Mr Speaker, which is more subtle but worthy of your consideration because of its pernicious nature, and that is the following: As a result of yesterday's proceeding, the word is going forth from this Legislature that persons called to appear before a legislative committee need not appear if they choose not to. This word has it that one need only decline the invitation on the grounds that to do so would in some way place the witness in a difficult legal position.

I ask you to consider, Mr Speaker: Is it not for the legislative committees and this Legislature to decide whether there is any real basis for a witness's reluctance to appear? Is it not for the duly elected members of this House who sit on our committees to determine, after hearing from a witness in person, whether there are any valid grounds for refusing to appear and whether, if there be such grounds, there might not be some way to accommodate the witness's concerns by means which could include

restricting our questions to certain areas and conducting our sittings in camera?

1410

Surely, Mr Speaker, you will agree that the ultimate authority for making these kinds of decisions rests with the Legislature and its committees and not with the witnesses themselves. If the people our parliamentary committee wishes to hear from refuse to appear before us and we do nothing about this, to whom are these people accountable?

I submit that the message our committee sent out yesterday is one which is contrary to the laws and traditions which have developed over centuries and which hold that in a parliamentary democracy Parliament is the supreme authority.

So I ask you to consider, Mr Speaker, that not only has my ability to exercise my rights fully under standing order 125 been infringed in this matter, but the very authority which has been carefully and purposely bestowed on our Legislature is now under attack.

I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that the government's passive acquiescence in a decision by any witness, let alone eight, to refuse to appear when called to do so strikes at the very heart of this Legislature and the authority it legitimately wields. In this most fundamental way, Mr Speaker, my rights and the rights of each member of this House were also denied yesterday. I leave these matters for your careful and considered opinion.

The Speaker: On the same point?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, I have on occasion come to you before and asked you to think about the difficulties of the minority in a Parliament where the committees are dominated by government members, as is the case in each of the committees. While my friend has not asked such to be considered, I might ask you, Mr Speaker, to consider what remedies you, on your own as Speaker, might have to assist the minority in carrying out the obligations and duties we have as opposition members.

In fact, when you consider, Mr Speaker, the fact that the 125 now is in the rules precisely so that opposition people can inquire into certain issues of their choosing, you might very well, Mr Speaker, ask yourself: If the government can veto every claim that the opposition has to inquire into or investigate issues, in its opinion, of importance, then it would appear that the government, as a result of its numbers, is violating the very nature of the standing order provisions.

With that in mind, Mr Speaker, I would ask you to consider the fact that you might very well, at the behest of a majority of the minority members on the committee—ie, the opposition members—issue Speaker's warrants to compel witnesses to come before the committee, thereby upholding the standing orders and thereby allowing the opposition its rights, under the standing orders, to investigate subjects of its desire in a real and effective way.

The Speaker: On the same point?

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Mr Speaker, if you permit me to add a few comments to, I think, some very valid points that have been raised by the honourable members who spoke previously, I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that

I was in the committee very briefly yesterday but I happened to be there when the vote was taking place.

I can tell you that the headline that appears under one article today in the *Toronto Sun* saying "Gagged By Hydro" would almost want to make any person who believes in democracy in the free world gag if they saw the exercise that the members of the government party went through yesterday in that committee.

Mr Speaker, I would ask you and beg your indulgence, under the point that's been raised by the honourable member, to look to section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act, because subsection 35(2), for example, says, "When the assembly requires the attendance of a person before the assembly or a committee thereof, the Speaker may issue a warrant directed to the person named in the order of the assembly requiring the person's attendance before the assembly or committee and the production of the papers and things as ordered."

As I say, I didn't sit through the entire proceedings yesterday, but it is my understanding that the committee did indeed request that these individuals appear and bring their documentation with them, and in fact these individuals refused.

It's my understanding that there were at least one, if not two, legal opinions sought, both of which concluded that there could be no reasonable grounds on which these people should refuse to appear before the committee. If they wanted to, they could bring their own solicitors, and their lawyers could advise them if they thought that there was anything improper or any line of questioning that was improper.

I would submit to you, Mr Speaker, that the committee indeed did request that these individuals attend and bring the required documentation with them, that these individuals have refused and that you now have the jurisdiction, and in fact I would submit to you, sir, with all due respect, the duty under section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act to issue a warrant and require these people to attend, because I think that was one of the greatest affronts to democracy I have ever seen that occurred in that committee yesterday.

For a party which, when it was in the opposition wilderness for year after year after year, cried and espoused the rights of free speech and talked about democratic procedures, does "New Democratic Party" mean that you get all your ducks lined up in committee and put a gag order on officials from Ontario Hydro and stop them from appearing before committee, to the detriment of not only the members here but the entire democratic system under which we supposedly operate?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Mr Speaker, I will try to be as brief as possible. I think you could interpret section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act in two ways.

You might interpret it as saying that it would need a majority of the people in this Legislature or a majority of the people in a committee to issue a warrant to compel a witness in front of it.

Surely, Mr Speaker, I think it's important that you, as the first elected Speaker of this Legislature and as the first

truly independent Speaker of this Legislature, look at this particular part of the act, which I don't believe has been used very often in this Legislature, if ever. I'm not certain. I know that it was threatened in and around the early part of 1981, but I do not know of any particular circumstance where it was used.

Surely the rule or that particular section cannot be there to protect the majority government from proper investigation into matters which that government is involved in. Surely the Legislative Assembly Act, which is stronger than our standing orders in terms of giving individual members rights, should be interpreted as saying that if a legislative committee asks for a witness and is refused by the witness, and then one member of that legislative committee requests of you or one member of this Legislative Assembly requests of you the opportunity to question that witness, you should grant that warrant.

The Speaker: To the members for Ottawa South, Bruce, Parry Sound and Carleton, I first will tell you that I'm very pleased to consider the matters that you have brought to my attention. The member for Ottawa South has identified a number of concerns and I'll be very pleased to examine each one of them in some detail and very carefully. I must commend him on his presentation, both thorough and thoughtful.

I will take the opportunity to clarify two matters. First, indeed there has been a Speaker's warrant issued during this Parliament, at the request of a committee. Second, to my knowledge, I've not received to date a request, from the committee to which the member refers, to issue a warrant, if there was some confusion with respect to that.

The larger point that has been raised, by the member for Bruce particularly, is one that I wish to deliberate on. May I say in closing that the matters the members speak of are serious. I take them as serious, and I will take a look at this as quickly as possible and try to get back to you as soon as possible. I thank you for bringing it to my attention.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Point of privilege, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Point of privilege, the member for Algoma.

Hon Mr Wildman: It's just a small point, but I'm sure that my friend the member for Carleton did not wish to give the impression that your predecessors in that chair were not independent. While I respect your independence and the new process, I would hope that none of us in this House would want to cast aspersions on your predecessors in the chair as Speaker.

1420

Mr Eves: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Point of order, the member for Parry Sound.

Mr Eves: I would ask that you take under advisement the fact that this committee normally sits on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, to the best of my understanding. If you intend, which you have indicated that you do, to think about this for a while, and I think that's very appropriate, I

would ask that the activities of this committee be suspended so that the clock in effect is not running on the 12 hours under standing order 125 until at least you've rendered a decision in this matter.

The Speaker: The member for Parry Sound has managed to give me something else to think about. I can tell him that while it's my intention to deal with this matter, of course the proper decision is more important than the speed with which it is made.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ONTARIO HYDRO PRESIDENT

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, may I say I appreciate your consideration of the point of privilege raised by the member for Ottawa South and I concur with you that it was a thorough, thoughtful and indeed a very serious point of privilege. I would like to follow it now with a question to the Minister of Energy.

Yesterday, the Minister of Energy appeared before a committee of this Legislature to explain his involvement in the firing of Al Holt, the former president of Ontario Hydro. The committee received a letter from Mr Holt which noted "the Hydro board's decision to request me to retire from my position as president." In answering the committee's questions yesterday, the minister again refused to admit that Mr Holt was fired.

I find it incredible that a minister of the crown would refuse to acknowledge what has now become a matter of public record, and I ask the minister, when will he simply acknowledge that Mr Holt was indeed fired and correct the obvious contradictions between his past statements in this House and the reality of what actually happened?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): It would be useful if the leader of the official opposition were to refer to the entire record of yesterday's proceedings.

The opposition is at liberty, if it wishes, to refer to the matter as a firing. The motion that was passed by the board of directors of Ontario Hydro, as I've been led to understand, did nothing more than give authority to the chair of Ontario Hydro to enter into discussions with the then president about a mutually agreeable retirement. If those discussions had led to no mutually acceptable conclusion, there was no finality to that motion and the matter would have again had to reside with the board of Ontario Hydro.

I maintain the comments I've made throughout. My understanding from the chair and from the board members and from the minutes of the Hydro board meeting are that Mr Holt was not fired.

Mrs McLeod: The minister suggests that I refer to the record. Let me refer to yet another record. The minister will surely remember, as is recorded in Hansard, that in responding to some of my earlier questions about Mr Holt's departure, he assured me, "There will be a hearing on this matter in the resources committee and I think that hearing will reveal all."

As the minister is well aware, almost all the witnesses the committee has called have refused to appear, based on legal advice from Ontario Hydro, and the only witness

who did show up, the minister himself, continued his line of claiming ignorance of all the issues.

Far from revealing all, this committee is being prevented from revealing anything. I would ask the minister, why does this government want to suppress the testimony of Hydro witnesses? What are you trying to hide?

Hon Mr Charlton: The Leader of the Opposition again blurts out her own contradictions. She didn't listen very closely to the member for Ottawa South, who very clearly this afternoon put on the record the circumstances under which the other witnesses did not appear. This minister and the government have had no contact with the witnesses the committee requested. Those witnesses, each individually, have chosen not to appear, based on legal advice which they've had. I have no connection with that set of events.

Mrs McLeod: This minister's responses and yesterday's antics are just one more example of this government's abuse of power. This is not just about witnesses refusing to appear before a committee. This is about a government which promised openness and accountability and which is using every means at its disposal to hide the truth. This is about a government, I remind the minister, that passed a law giving it direct control over Ontario Hydro now claiming it is not responsible for what's going on at Hydro.

The public has a right to know what is going on. The public has a right to know who is responsible and who is accountable for Ontario Hydro. I ask this minister once again, why are you afraid to let the people of this province know what is going on? Will you today ask your colleagues on that committee to stop their obstruction and let us call the witnesses so that we can all find out the truth?

Hon Mr Charlton: The Leader of the Opposition's appalling lack of concern for any individuals is not acceptable to me. The government has appeared, the minister has appeared before the committee. The Leader of the Opposition knows full well that under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act there is a process her colleagues can follow to find out and determine in absolute terms what's releasable and what is not. But what the opposition is doing is asking that individuals who have received legal advice that they may violate the law if they reveal certain information, take that responsibility unto themselves as individuals.

The opposition, if it wants to pursue these matters, has the right to make requests under the freedom of information legislation in this province and to have the commissioner rule on what can be released and what cannot. That responsibility should not be shifted on to individuals who may in fact be violating the law by releasing it.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question.

Mrs McLeod: I think I will let that particular record stand on its own merits. I'd simply remind the minister, as was pointed out by the member for Ottawa South, that the freedom of information commissioner was consulted about the calling of committee witnesses.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Treasurer. Last winter the Treasurer told hospitals, colleges, universities, school boards and municipalities that he was announcing their funding, not for one year, but for the next three years. The very firm commitment he made to those transfer partners for three years of funding was intended to assist them in the kind of planning and restructuring he expected them to carry out. We are now beginning to hear that the Treasurer's promise of the increase of 2% for next year is not going to be kept.

I would ask the Treasurer very directly, will he put an end today to these concerns we're hearing from colleges, universities, school boards and hospitals across this province? Will he assure them that his promise of a 2% increase is in fact going to be kept?

Hon Floyd Laughtren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Thanks to the leader of the official opposition for this opportunity to deal with some of the rumours, which I've heard too, that the commitment we made back in the spring for a 1% increase in transfer payments for this year, 2% next year and 2% the following year would be in place—there is no question whatsoever that the revenue problems of the province, which I've detailed on other occasions here, are causing us very serious problems with funding virtually everything for which we are responsible in the province.

I believe the leader of the official opposition would understand we're not the only province or the only jurisdiction that's having that kind of difficulty. I know as well that she and her colleagues are for ever fretting about the size of the deficit and about the amount of tax increases we might impose in the province.

The leader of the official opposition is quite appropriately raising the question of that commitment. We will be making an announcement much earlier than in previous years. We'll be making the announcement by the end of this month, which I've promised in the past to the transfer agencies, of just how much we'll be able to transfer to them from the taxpayers of the province.

1430

Mrs McLeod: So you're not going to keep your promise.

Mr Treasurer, you will be well aware that municipalities, school boards, colleges and universities and hospitals are now trying to finalize those budgets for next year. They were trying to finalize budgets based on your promise of a 2% increase. They've been told that they have to provide a budget plan by November 30 and yet they've been given absolutely no indication of what their resources will be and, clearly, no confirmation from you today that they can expect the 2% that was promised.

I ask the Treasurer to say very clearly when are you going to tell the transfer agencies exactly what they can expect in financing from your government in this current year and how you can expect the schools, the colleges, the universities and the hospitals to do any kind of a plan in this absolutely chaotic environment that you've now created for them.

Hon Mr Laughren: There's nothing chaotic in the environment except in the mind of the leader of the official opposition; absolutely nothing.

All I've tried to say to the leader of the official opposition is that by the end of the month all of our major transfer partners will know what is being transferred to them. I am not saying today that it will be 0%, 1%, 2%, 3%. I'm just saying that whatever it is will be conveyed to our transfer partners by the end of this month.

There's nothing more to read into that than simply we'll be making that announcement at the end of the month. The leader of the official opposition can draw whatever conclusion she wants. The fact is the announcement will be made by the end of the month.

Mrs McLeod: How soon they conveniently forget their very own words. Treasurer, you made the announcement when you said, "For three years, there will be 0%, 2% and 2%." The transfer agencies are expecting the 2% you promised. They're not waiting for you to announce it will be somewhere between zero and something else.

I remind you that last winter you told those transfer partners that they had to look for innovative solutions to solving their financial problems. They have all been trying to cut costs without cutting essential services. They have accepted the tough reality that you gave them a year ago and said they would work with that reality to try to carry out the kinds of changes that you were demanding they make. Now they don't know whether your part of the bargain still holds.

I ask, Treasurer, why did you even create completely false expectations about the level of funding that would come from the next two years, and what are you now saying to the school boards, colleges and universities, hospitals and municipalities who took you at your word and tried to do what you told them to do?

Hon Mr Laughren: There is the leader of the official opposition jumping to conclusions once again. I simply say to the leader of the official opposition, by the end of the month I will make a statement in the Legislature which will either confirm the 2% that was announced earlier in the year or announce some deviation from that.

I think for the leader of the official opposition to read more into that than simply the timing of the announcement is not doing herself any service, or anybody else out there in the province of Ontario, and I think perhaps she should listen to her seatmate, the member for Renfrew North, who said not long ago:

"For the next few years, we're all going to have to tighten our belts and find new ways to provide services. Neither this government nor any successive government is going to wave a magic wand and create substantial new grants to the public institutions."

What the member for Renfrew North—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: Allow me to translate that for some of the members here. What the member for Renfrew North is saying is that the days of spending like a drunken

sailor of the 1980s that his government engaged in are gone for ever.

ONTARIO HYDRO PRESIDENT

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Today the Speaker has been put in a rather compromising, difficult position, a position that there's no necessity for, I would suggest to you, regarding the committee hearings into the dismissal of the president of Ontario Hydro.

Late yesterday afternoon the NDP members on the resources committee voted against a motion to subpoena witnesses who had refused to attend these hearings. Deputy Premier, I'm not certain that motion was required. We will find that out when the Speaker rules in due time.

None the less, I would ask you to consider this: Without getting into the specifics of the case, the precedent that is being set here, these are witnesses who have shown absolute contempt for the highest authority in Ontario, the Legislature, and a committee of the Legislature they were asked to appear before. When that occurs—which is very rare but it does occur—that is why the Legislature has the authority to subpoena witnesses.

I would ask you this in the absence of the Premier: Can you tell me why your caucus colleagues were obviously instructed to try and shut down these hearings by not allowing the committee to compel witnesses to appear?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier): I'll refer that question to the Minister of Energy.

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): As I set out in an earlier response to the leader of the official opposition—

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Slowly, Brian, carefully.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Charlton: As I set out in my earlier response, the members of the opposition parties were made fully aware of the legal opinion which was given to those witnesses by the counsel for Ontario Hydro, a legal opinion which suggested that each and every one of them might be liable for breaches of the law if they testified.

Both of the opposition parties have a process by which they can pursue the legality of the release of that information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. They have the right to request the commissioner to review that question and to determine what can and what cannot be released. That is a process they've had access to ever since the legislation was passed. For the opposition to be putting the responsibility of potential legal liability on individuals is unacceptable.

Mr Harris: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I don't think my question had anything to do with the Minister of Energy and I would ask you to rule on whether it was appropriate to refer it.

The Speaker: I allowed the question to be redirected because it had to do with the subject matter of the committee, and indeed an earlier question on the same topic was directed directly to the Minister of Energy. The member may wish to now place his supplementary.

Mr Harris: In spite of the fact that it has nothing to do with the Minister of Energy, since you are a member of the cabinet and have now been delegated to respond to this coverup, let me quote you, Mr Minister. You said, "There will be a hearing on this matter in the resources committee in two weeks and I think that hearing will reveal all."

Mr Minister, the purpose of the freedom of information act is not to supplant or circumvent or take the place of the Legislative Assembly's right to hear from witnesses directly. It is not your duty as minister, it is not any individual member's duty, to counsel members of the public on what questions they should or should not answer once they appear. They have counsel. They can refuse to answer questions on certain grounds. That is their right. All we're asking is the right of the Legislative Assembly, the highest authority in Ontario, to request witnesses to appear before it.

Mr Minister, without getting into the specifics of the case, the individuals are pretty big people. They take care of you every day over in Hydro; they can take care of themselves on what they should say. I would ask you this again: Why have you or your cabinet or your Premier or your House leader or somebody over there instructed the members of your committee to cover up this investigation by telling them to deny the committee, the Legislature, the democratic right, the reason they were elected—

The Speaker: Could the leader complete his question, please.

Mr Harris: —to be able to subpoena the witnesses to appear before them? Why are you doing that?

Hon Mr Charlton: This government and this minister have not pursued any coverup. First of all, this minister appeared before the committee and honestly answered all questions that were put to him. Those witnesses who did not appear did not appear because of personal legal advice that they individually had received and chose to listen to. I've set out twice in this House now the process by which the opposition should be pursuing the information that they want to gain. That's the process they should follow.

1440

Mr Harris: I'm sorry, but by way of supplementary, it was you, Mr Minister, who said the committee would get to the bottom of this; it would get the facts. Mr Holt says, "Ontario Hydro has advised me that it expects me to abide by the terms of our agreement, and that voluntary testimony before the standing committee...could potentially expose me...."

We are asking you to subpoena him and the other board members and anybody else that the committee unanimously recommended. It will not then be voluntary, and he can have counsel there to judge what he should reveal and what he should not reveal.

I would ask you this, Minister: We have a president of Ontario Hydro who was requested to retire. We have a board of directors, members, who are refusing to appear. We have a minister of the crown—you, sir—accused of misleading the House. We have all of these to get to the bottom to, and you tell us that the legislative committee will find out all; it will discover all.

Can you tell me again why you have instructed the members, your members on the committee, to cover up for these witnesses who have snubbed the highest authority in the province? They have snubbed it by refusing to appear. Why again are you covering this up? What have you got to hide?

Hon Mr Charlton: The Minister of Energy has nothing to hide. The members across the way, in their partisan approach to this issue, have lost the words to the motion which was put under the 125, which was supposed to be a motion delving into my involvement in the process, not into the retirement package of Mr Holt, which is a private personnel matter between the board of directors and that former president of Ontario Hydro. No corporation, Mr Speaker—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Charlton: The opposition members have strayed from their purpose. No corporation, either in the private sector or in the public sector, airs and washes its personnel matters in public. It's a right of every board to deal with those matters in private. The issue which the opposition set out to pursue, which was my involvement in the process, I have no problem discussing anywhere at any time.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Harris: I'll tell you, you're going to rue the day you put this gag order on and you refused to compel witnesses to appear before the committee of the Legislature when they are snubbing the highest authority in this province.

TAXATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My second question is for the Treasurer. Recently, Mr Treasurer, officials in your ministry told the Globe and Mail that they looked forward to Bill Clinton's election as US president. "Ontario Officials Look South for Policy Vindication" read part of the headline. As you know, Treasurer, Mr Clinton's economic policy, which you so heartily endorse, calls for a "significant tax cut for middle-income earners as a means of kickstarting the United States out of recession."

Treasurer, seeing as how you and your officials seem to support the idea of a tax cut for the US middle class, when can we expect your announcement of a similar measure for the hard-pressed taxpayers of your own province, who, by the way, are already paying substantially higher taxes than the US middle-income taxpayer?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Mr Speaker, the thoughts of—the—

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Um, um, um, um. What a good point, eh, Floyd?

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Let me think about it.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: There was a day in this House when you were allowed to collect your thoughts before speaking, but I see that's not allowed any more.

The Speaker: I'm not sure when those days were, but perhaps you could allow the Treasurer to complete his response.

Hon Mr Laughren: I actually did have my thoughts collected a minute ago, but I've forgotten what they were again.

The leader of the third party is pressing once again, and I must say that he's consistent in this regard, keeping up his reputation as the tax fighter, keeping up his pressure to cut taxes in the province, but I would say to the leader of the third party, as I've said on other occasions, that reducing the revenues in the province at a time when we're already under siege with our revenues simply makes no economic sense whatsoever. If you really think that cutting taxes would mean new revenues and a new stimulant to the economy that would make up for those lost revenues, I hope you'll explain to me why it didn't happen in the United States when your friend Ronald Reagan tried it back in 1980.

Mr Harris: Contrary to what you have done, ie, you hiked taxes on those making \$20,000 a year or more in your last budget, the fact is that some of the leading economists in the United States urged Mr Clinton to enact middle-income tax cuts to stimulate the economy. They have recognized that you cannot hope to rescue a modern economy from recession by taxing the huge purchasing power of the broad middle class half to death. They understand that if you do tax people half to death, you kill the economy right along with them as well. They know you can't expect people to spend and invest and you can't expect the economy to grow if you rob the middle class, that broad group of people, of the power to spend and invest by taxing them to death. That's what the economists advised Mr Clinton, and that's what Mr Clinton decided to do and to campaign on, and evidently you admired that economic program he brought forward.

Treasurer, I would ask you this: Given that your friends in Ottawa have negotiated economic ties and free trade with the United States, can you explain to me why our middle class in Ontario is not going to be given an opportunity to compete with the middle class in the United States?

Hon Mr Laughren: The leader of the third party really is engaging in flights of fancy at this point in his political career. I was just browsing through the newspaper the other day, and I read a headline that says, "Tory Tax Hikes Called Unprecedented"—this is federal—"Changes since 1984 have added \$3,115 to Ontario Family's '92 Taxes, Study Says."

I heard the federal Minister of Finance being asked a question the other day about why he would not reduce the GST or eliminate the GST or phase out the GST, and he replied that the room on the revenue side simply didn't allow him to do that. It is old-fashioned, discredited thinking if you think the way to stimulate the economy is simply to have a tax cut and that will look after the lost revenues. That would raise the deficits to what I think are unprecedented levels in this province, and we're not prepared to do that.

1450

Mr Harris: Listen, you can duck and dodge all you want. You can argue about whether Mulroney taxes more than you or you tax more than Mulroney, but you can't condemn him for tax hikes and say your tax hikes are okay. They're both wrong. They're both coming at the wrong time and we all know it. Canadians know it and they're going to express that at the next federal election and they will express it in the next provincial election. You know that and I know that. We know that, so you can duck and you can dodge all you like.

The fact of the matter is this: I have told you where you could find the money. You can take your failed billion-dollar program that's not working and you can cut taxes a billion without increasing the deficit one cent. I suggest to you that surely you must have enough evidence today that you cannot tax and borrow and spend your way to economic recovery. You have tried this through two budgets, the Liberals tried it, but that will not work.

The Speaker: And the question?

Mr Harris: So I ask you this, Mr Treasurer: Given that we're already the highest-taxed jurisdiction in all of North America, that we have no more tax capacity—as you say, we have no more borrowing capacity—will you abandon your ridiculous approach of trying to spend your way out of this recession, and will you bring in tax cuts similar to those proposed by Mr Clinton before he does so we can stay on a more level playing field with our neighbours to the south?

Hon Mr Laughren: Once again, I'll try not to be provocative in my response. However, in his question, the leader of the third party raises a question in my mind that has to be answered. I can't answer it; only the leader of the third party can answer it. Because of his condemnation of the federal government and its tax policies, is it now confirmed that Michael Harris will be campaigning for Preston Manning in the next federal election?

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. You did say you wouldn't be provocative.

Hon Mr Laughren: But, Mr Speaker, the trouble with the Conservative Party's position is that not only does it want us to reduce our revenues through tax decreases, which would be very nice to do but doesn't deal with the problem of the deficit, but his party also does not want us to get our fair share of revenues from the federal government.

His colleague the member for Carleton said today that the 15% the federal government offers on a national highway initiative is enough for us. The member for Etobicoke West—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Laughren: Would you let me finish?

Interjections.

The Speaker: We require help on both sides of the House. If the members would come to order and if the Treasurer will be succinct in his response, then we can move on.

Hon Mr Laughren: I'm trying to show the contradictions, because the third party, the Conservative Party, is saying we should reduce our revenues by reducing taxes. At the same time, the member for Carleton and the member for Etobicoke West, on that much-watched program—well, a few people watch Focus Ontario; I saw it myself. The member for Etobicoke West said the federal government had no intention of giving us the fiscal stabilization program money to which we're entitled, and he said, "and they had no right to get."

The Speaker: Would the Treasurer complete his response, please.

Hon Mr Laughren: If the leader of the third party believes, as his colleague does, that we have no right to that money, let him stand in his place and say so.

The Speaker: New question, the member for St Catharines.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a question for the Minister of—

The Speaker: Point of privilege, the member for Carleton.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. A point of privilege was raised.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): The Treasurer indicated that I had said the 15% was adequate. I said, and he will check with Hansard, "Ontario negotiated a lousy deal with our federal government." Interpret that the way you would, Mr Treasurer.

The Speaker: The member has a point of debate, not privilege. The member for Renfrew North with his question.

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I'm particularly pleased to be able to put a question to the chairman of the treasury board, the provincial Treasurer. I want to say at the outset of my question that I certainly appreciate the dire straits in which the finance minister finds himself with respect to the ongoing recession in this province. I can well appreciate the Hobson's choice he has as he looks at the fall and winter of this particular fiscal year.

With that in mind, and having regard to what he said I said not long ago, which is absolutely accurate, let me be specific about one particular provincial agency that he might care to do something about against the backdrop of these tough times. What does the Treasurer, the chairman of the treasury board, think about the following proposal from the Workers' Compensation Board?

According to the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, a decision has been taken in recent weeks that the board will move by 1995 to acquire new office space. The Workers' Compensation Board is going to take 525,000 square feet in Simcoe Place at a cost of \$200 million, or \$380 per square foot, at a time in this city, Metropolitan Toronto, when we have 27 million square feet of excess commercial space at an average retail price of \$20 per square foot.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I appreciate the question. I am concerned

about it and have asked that arrangements be made for a meeting with myself and WCB officials.

Mr Conway: I appreciate that response, and I assume that the Treasurer and the chairman of treasury board, faced with the very severe budgetary pressures we all know he has, is going to order a stop to any move of a provincial agency or department that would cost the taxpayers \$200 million, or \$380 per square foot, at a time when there are 27 million square feet of available space at an average cost of \$20 per square foot. It seems to me incredible that any public sector agency, no matter how pressed, could imagine spending those kinds of dollars under these conditions.

Will the chairman of the treasury board give this House an assurance that, either today or very shortly, he will come back to this place and say that the Workers' Compensation Board is staying put and is going to make do with the facilities it has and we are not going to burden the economy of this province, either the injured workers or the employers' association, with these kinds of outrageous and untimely costs?

Hon Mr Laughren: As always, the silver-tongued yet dyspeptic dilettante from Renfrew North has put his question very well. I would make a commitment to respond directly to the member for Renfrew North.

TVONTARIO EMPLOYEE

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. A member of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, known as NABET, received a letter from Margaret Kaszecki-Pyron, vice-president of the NABET region 7 and an employee at TVOntario. This letter, which solicited NABET members' support in a union election, arrived in a TVOntario envelope that is metered and dated November 13, 1992. I have sent across to the member copies of the letter and the envelope. This NABET candidate used TVOntario stationery, paid for by the taxpayers of Ontario, for her union campaign activities. It appears that TVO is endorsing this candidate. It is even possible that TVO paid the postage for this mailing.

Minister, you are responsible for ensuring that TVO is accountable to the people of Ontario. Do you approve of this candidate's use of TVO materials and facilities for union campaigning?

1500

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): I thank the member for her question. This is the first time I have seen this. The member is correct that TVOntario is an agency of the ministry. I will take this up with the chair of the board. I understand that there was a letter from Steve Droz, who is the manager of industrial and talent relations, regarding this. I will, as I mentioned, take this up and get back to the member.

Mrs Marland: I wish I could tell this House that this is an isolated incident, but it is not. In November 1990, Local 700 of NABET filed a complaint with the Ontario Labour Relations Board about the campaigning activities

of this same candidate for the NABET executive, Margaret Kaszecki-Pyron.

I have a copy of a letter dated February 25, 1991, to the OLRB from TVO, which is signed by Steven Droz, manager of industrial and talent relations and it says, and I will read you the quote:

"TVOntario admits that some election material was distributed on behalf of Margaret Kaszecki-Pyron along with the paycheques of some members of NABET Local 700 during the week of November 5, 1990. TVOntario further admits that while unintentional, it was an unwarranted intrusion into the administration of the trade union to have permitted that material to be distributed with some employees' paycheques."

TVOntario also agreed to post an apology for a period of 45 days.

So this is the second incident with the same employee.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member's question?

Mrs Marland: Mr Speaker, my question is this: Minister, neither Ms Kaszecki-Pyron nor TVO has learned a lesson from the first incident. It seems that TVO is still permitting her to use its stationery and equipment for her union election campaign. What will you do to ensure that this situation can never happen again?

Hon Mrs Haslam: As I've said, I will speak with the chair of TVO, Mr Herrndorf. It is an agency of the ministry and, as such, the board will obviously be aware of the situation. I will speak directly to him and I will get back to the member.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The Minister of Housing with a response to a question asked earlier.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Yesterday I undertook to get further information for the leader of the Conservative Party concerning the announcement I made yesterday on our new energy conservation and fuel switching program.

I'd like to let him know that the figures that have been used in the information we have provided publicly are based on a 1987 study by Clayton Research Associates related to the employment levels generated by conservation and renovation work. That includes direct, indirect and induced jobs. There are jobs in many fields related to this work.

The estimate is based on a formula that says that \$100,000 worth of work generates three person-years of employment. The exact employment figures that will be associated with this program are very difficult to estimate. We have made an estimate that we will be looking at about 1,100 person-years of work, but it will depend very much on the projects that come to us through the proposal call, which is going out immediately.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Since really what we're talking about is straight guesswork about what jobs may or may not be created, I would ask the minister two things. Number one, since most of your projections on job creation from your government are half or a third or a

tenth or 1/50th of what you actually told us when you announced the program, will you report to the House how many jobs are actually created on a project-by-project basis, not each individually but at an interval, let's say, of six-month or three-month periods?

Secondly, since your estimates seem so ridiculous, will you guarantee that the men and women who will be working on these construction projects will be paid fair wages?

Hon Ms Gigantes: I consider that last question to be an insulting question, but I would be very pleased to provide a continuing report to the House on the number of jobs involved. The member will recognize that some of those jobs included in the estimates which I've provided are jobs which will be occurring because of this program, not directly related to construction within the program.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I have a question to the Deputy Premier. Mr Deputy Premier, is it the policy of your government to promote the borrowing of money to buy lottery tickets in this province?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier): Not to my knowledge.

Mr Elston: I have here a circular from the Ontario Lottery Corp which includes in it a registration form that says people can spend up to and probably over \$520 at one time and they can use their VISA cards or their MasterCard to buy lottery tickets to give away at Christmas time. I want to know from the Deputy Premier why his government has promoted the use of plastic borrowing apparatuses so that people can gamble away money before they have earned it.

Hon Mr Laughren: I'm not sure that I would buy into the language the member is using on what characterizes borrowing and what characterizes simply—

Mr Elston: You use a MasterCard to buy lottery tickets.

Hon Mr Laughren: Would you let me answer the question? I'll try to answer the question. I'm not sure what the member is saying. Buying lottery tickets with a VISA card surely is an alternative way of paying for the tickets. It doesn't mean you have to go out and borrow money. You could pay it off the next day. It seems to me a matter of convenience as an alternative method of paying. I don't see why the member would be upset about that.

CROP INSURANCE

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): In the absence of the minister—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Villeneuve: In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, I will ask the Treasurer a question; it has to do with crop insurance. I'm sure the Treasurer is aware of the very poor growing conditions that we had in Ontario this year and the lack of heat units for growing purposes. Particularly hard hit are our corn producers.

The situation now is that the crop insurance is telling our corn producers that they should wait for any claim until they have harvested the crop. We've had severe wind

storms and we now have snow and the harvesting is going to be almost impossible. These farmers have paid the premiums for coverage. They need cash flow. The corn crop that's out there is grading number 5 or inferior. There's no market and there's no home for it.

Mr Treasurer, could you not tell these farmers, "Do whatever you want with your crop; it is a write-off"? They've paid the premiums. They need the cash flow. They're not likely to get the harvesting done this year. Please provide some leadership here.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier): The member for Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and East Grenville asks a most appropriate question. It is my understanding that in order to apply and receive crop insurance funds, the crop must be harvested in order to know what it is. I stand to be corrected on that, but that was my understanding, and that those rules are set by the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, which is a federal-provincial agency, and that the minister of agriculture for the province of Ontario is aware of this, as is the member, and that they're trying to work with the crop commission to see if there is a solution to the problem, because I believe it is a legitimate problem.

1510

Mr Villeneuve: Mr Treasurer, an advance payment is a must in any event, because the quality of the crop right now is such that the feed dealers are not looking for grade 5 or inferior corn, the mould and the microtoxins have already infested, and the chances are that very little of this crop will be harvested in any event. So please allow them to write off.

Secondly, we're going to be faced with more than 50% of this year's corn crop in that particular situation. I want you to assure our farmers, who've paid their premiums, that the crop insurance will indeed be there, and honour their financial commitment to agriculture.

Hon Mr Laughren: I do understand what the member's saying, at least I think I do: that it costs more to harvest the crop than it would be worth in the end, so that it does pose a particular problem. I think, as well, that the member would appreciate—and I don't mean this to be passing the buck—that it does have to be worked out between the federal and the provincial governments with the crop commission. I will speak to the minister of agriculture, but I know that he and his parliamentary assistant, Mr Paul Klopp, have already been doing some work on that, but I'll make sure that that's reinforced.

FIRE SAFETY

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): My question is for the Solicitor General. In my riding of York East there are quite a large number of constituents living in older apartments and many of these constituents have expressed concerns about the safety systems during a power failure. I would like to know what provisions have been made in the fire code to ensure that when a fire occurs and there is also power failure people in low-rise and high-rise apartments can find their way to safety.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): As members of the House know, on October 7 I made certain announcements which are now in effect with respect to these fire safety regulations. The regulations required high-rise residential buildings to have emergency power supply for fire alarm and voice communication systems and to provide lighting in exits, stairs and public corridors for at least two hours to ensure residents can find their way to safety. In low-rise buildings containing more than 24 people or 10 dwelling units, emergency power to light stairwells and corridors must be provided for at least 30 minutes to ensure residents can safely exit those particular buildings.

Mr Malkowski: Supplementary: How long will property owners have to comply with the new regulations?

Hon Mr Pilkey: We attempted to balance the concerns of both residents and building owners, and in an effort to do that we provided a two-year phase-in period for this particular regulation. We will allow, in certain unusual circumstances, if there are unforeseen circumstances, the chief fire official to grant an extension to that time frame if it becomes necessary. But, as I say, the rule of thumb with respect to this will be an approximate two-year phase-in period.

ADVOCACY AND GUARDIANSHIP LEGISLATION

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): My question is to the Attorney General. The Attorney General will know that the provisions of the Advocacy Act, which is soon to come before the House in committee of the whole and for third reading, create a new investigative structure in Ontario. The act will entitle a person, who doesn't necessarily have to identify himself or herself, to enter a public hospital at any time of the day or night to conduct a search. Many people believe that those provisions contravene section 8 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Will the Attorney General refer the search provisions of this bill to the Court of Appeal for an opinion before the bill is enacted as to its constitutionality?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): The member identifies one area of the Advocacy Act which has led to some controversy. She will know that this has been the subject of some discussion before the committee, which has at various times over the last year examined the Advocacy Act and the whole list of legislation which is tied together with the Advocacy Act. I can only say that while she obviously holds one view of the legislation, that view is not shared by legal counsel in the Ministry of Citizenship and is not shared by legal counsel elsewhere in the government, and we see no need at this time for any reference.

Mrs Sullivan: The Attorney General speaks with some understatement when he speaks about areas of controversy surrounding this bill and the companion bills, the consent to treatment and substitute decisions bills.

I want to refer back to this particular issue because the Attorney General will remember that less than two years ago a man wandered around the Hospital for Sick Children. His intent was to molest children who were within that hospital. That hospital can only respond to such intruders

by using the Trespass to Property Act. Hospitals across Ontario rely on that act to ensure that only people who are involved in providing health services to a patient or people whom the patient specifically wants to see have access to the patient.

Bill 74 would allow a person who is not a part of the health care team, who is not family, to be wherever a patient is, including in the operating room, with or without the patient's consent. No warrant is necessary. There's nothing to stop that person from intruding at the most intimate of times. In fact, hospital personnel may be charged for not allowing the person to enter a patient's room or other area of the hospital. There is only one point to the forced entry and that is to conduct a search.

Will the Attorney General—and I'm asking him again—respond to the demands of health care workers and hundreds and hundreds of other people across Ontario who believe that this bill authorizes a massive invasion of privacy, creates a danger in a public hospital setting and is unconstitutional? Once again, will the AG refer the search provisions to the appeal court for an opinion now, or is he going to wait until this law is challenged in court and he loses?

Hon Mr Hampton: I can only say again that while the member has her particular perspective on this issue, that perspective is not shared by others, and it is not felt that the degree of intrusion that this member believes exists—that view is not shared and there does not seem to be a need for reference at this time.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My question is for the acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation responsible for the Ontario Lottery Corp. On November 4, the member for Mississauga West introduced a private member's bill which would restrict the sale of lottery tickets to individuals under 18 years of age, to children, Mr Speaker. Our Progressive Conservative caucus supports the principle of that bill and we would like to see that bill passed this afternoon.

The Ontario Lottery Corp Pro Line Select lottery is obviously designed directly for children. The marketing campaign directly appeals to children under 18. They bet on their favourite sports team. Thousands and thousands of dollars every single day, as long as the minister is delaying, are bet on sports teams by children. My question to the minister is this: Why are you dragging your feet? Do you support the concept of children gambling?

Hon Ed Philip (Acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation): No, I don't support the concept of children gambling and I don't think any member of the House does. I think for the member to ask that question then says more about him than about anything else.

I'm prepared to support the bill of the member for Mississauga West. That bill will come forward in the regular way in which private members' bills come forward. If there's any way in which our House leaders can get together and move that bill forward, I'd be happy to both speak on it and support the bill. But I think we should put it in some context. There are five provinces that have

sports lotteries. None of them have legislation of the kind that has been asked for. There have only been six—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Philip: The opposition obviously want to grandstand on this. They don't want to do something about it. That's why they won't let me answer the question, but I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that I will support the bill. We will move forward with it as quickly as we can and we will be the first province that has it in legislation.

I can tell you also that there have only been six complaints about that particular matter in the province. It is not a widespread problem, and I think the parents have some responsibility as well for what their children do with their money.

1520

Mr Arnott: I was the minister's critic for Transportation. I'd forgotten about the personal cheap shots he employs.

I would ask him, in supplementary, will he then support allowing unanimous consent to be presented in this House to pass Bill 92 today?

Hon Mr Philip: Unlike that party—

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Come on. Yes, yes.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the minister take his seat. The member for Markham is definitely out of order. The member has asked a question and I assume he would like a response. I would ask the members to be quiet so that he can hear a response.

Hon Mr Philip: The House leaders make those decisions. It is not my role to be both Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, Minister of Tourism and Recreation and government House leader at the same time. Maybe that's how the Liberal Party operates, with several House leaders; maybe that's how the Conservative Party operates, with several House leaders. We don't operate that way.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

Mr Arnott: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would like to move for unanimous consent that Bill 92 receive third reading this afternoon.

The Speaker: Such a motion cannot be permitted on the floor at this time, during our routine proceedings. Would you wait until we have completed routine proceedings.

PETITIONS

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have yet another petition signed by residents of the city of Toronto who are concerned about Metro's MVA plan.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Metro Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived plan to bring in market value assessment, in spite of the solid opposition of the city of Toronto; and

"Whereas we believe market value as a basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro

Toronto is the wrong tax, at the wrong time, in the wrong place; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relation to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas if the province changes legislation to deny the city of Toronto the right to determine our own method of property tax reform, Toronto home owners, tenants and businesses will in future be left to the mercy of regional government; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and our small businesses will be devastated by further increases; and

"Whereas city of Toronto residents account for 29% of Metro's population but Toronto taxpayers foot 40% of Metro's bills;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto, and to allow each local municipality in Metro Toronto the autonomy to determine our own method of property tax reform in our own municipality."

I have affixed my signature to this petition with which I wholeheartedly concur.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I'm happy to sign my signature to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I have a petition signed by several people in my riding from Comber, Staples, Tilbury, St Joachim and the town of Essex.

"The undersigned hereby register their opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act. We believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38 to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I affix my signature to this petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): A petition to the Legislature to "reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

Signed by residents of the county of Middlesex; I have affixed by signature.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which states in part:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned, so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I have affixed my name to the top of that petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Ms Margery Ward (Don Mills): I have a petition addressed to the members of provincial Parliament. It reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday business. I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day would be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families.

"The proposed amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act of Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be deleted."

I have affixed my name.

POST-POLIO SYNDROME

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads in part as follows:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to establish a post-polio clinic in the Rehabilitation Centre of Ottawa-Carleton for the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients and to disseminate information so that the estimated 1,000 known polio survivors in the centre's catchment area can receive adequate treatment and that the medical profession be educated regarding the post-polio syndrome."

REAL ESTATE GAINS

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly opposing the introduction of a new tax on real estate gains.

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases, a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the taxes proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

I've affixed my name to the top of the petition.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I present the following petition on behalf of the Lambton County Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

"Whereas the association believes that the respite care bed currently in use at the Maple Street children's residence in Petrolia should continue to operate and not have this vital front-line Lambton county community service reduced or eliminated in any way whatsoever."

I affix my signature. There are 850 names on this petition.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly which reads:

"Whereas the Ontario Lottery Corp has introduced the Pro Line sports lottery; and

"Whereas our young people are being encouraged to gamble on professional sports games; and

"Whereas this gambling has turned all lottery outlets into bookie joints, thereby legalizing gambling on professional sports,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the province of Ontario should immediately pass private member's Bill 92 to prohibit the sale of lottery tickets to children."

As the sponsor of that bill, I hereby affix my signature to this petition.

1530

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CITY OF YORK ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Rizzo, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr73, An Act respecting the City of York.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Given the fact that the acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation has said he supports Bill 92, I would like to move unanimous consent that Bill 92 be brought on to the floor of this House today so that we can finally eliminate the problem of children gambling on professional sports and do it today, second and third reading. I would move for unanimous consent.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Is there unanimous consent?

Interjections: No.

The Deputy Speaker: There isn't unanimous consent.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GAMING SERVICES ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 SUR LES SERVICES RELATIFS AU JEU

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): I ask for unanimous consent to move a motion with respect to Bill 26, the Gaming Services Act.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Is there unanimous consent? Agreed.

Hon Mr Hampton: I move that the order for committee of the whole House be discharged with respect to Bill 26, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Gaming Services, and the bill be ordered for third reading.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the motion carry? Carried.

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I'd like to move third reading of Bill 26.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any comments at all?

Hon Ms Churley: Yes. Although they're not in the House right now, just briefly I want to thank the members of both parties, both my opposition critics and others, who spoke yesterday in support of the bill and I would like to thank them for their support for third reading today. This is a very important bill for the charitable gaming organizations out there and it's nice to see that we were able to get full cooperation in the House in passing this very important bill, so thank you to the opposition.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I'm pleased to have the opportunity to rise this afternoon to speak to Bill 26, which concerns, as we know, amendments to the lottery business that the government undertakes—no, it's the issue of—

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): Gaming.

Mr Arnott: —gaming services, correct. It's an important bill for many reasons which have been brought forward by the various opposition critics and speakers. But I'm concerned about it as it may pertain to casino gambling.

In my particular riding of Wellington, there's a very strong concern about the way this government is approaching the casino gambling issue. We see today, with respect to the Ontario Lottery Corp, the way the government is manipulating that particular corporation in an effort to maximize the revenues that may come in to the government.

It's very, very clear that this government is running out of control with respect to its gaming policies. On this bill, we've received many assurances from the government, from the minister, that it does not impact on the lottery corporation, does not create a problem or does not have anything to do with gambling casinos. But we've heard assurances from this government before, and we find on a number of different occasions that these assurances that are provided to us do not ring true over time.

As I say, in my riding there's a very sincere and strong concern about this government's willingness to go ahead with gambling casinos. The government has announced that it's going to have a limited-scale casino policy, a pilot project in Windsor, and really we have a great deal of concern about even that, because we're concerned that it may in fact lead to wide-open casinos in Ontario.

I'm concerned about that particular side of the issue, and perhaps I just want to put the government on notice that I'll continue to oppose its policy of casinos in Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): We spoke at some length on this bill in second reading just yesterday. I do want, however, to make some additional comments with respect to Bill 26, as I search for some additional information which I think follows up on what I had started to talk about yesterday.

I am trying to make the case to the minister, with respect to Bill 26, that there are a number of concerns she must entertain and that she must be looking at with respect to the impact of casino gambling on charitable organizations. It's not so much that Bill 26 fails to overcome these difficulties. Bill 26 is moving forward to enable charitable organizations, as I said in my earlier remarks, to mitigate some of the impact that may result from the advent of casino gambling in the future.

But I want to make the case that in fact there are some negative implications associated with the introduction of a casino-type economy in a locale such as Windsor, and I'd like to bring out some relevant facts, if I may, with respect to what the experience was in Atlantic City.

As I pointed out yesterday, Atlantic City has experienced some very negative impacts as a result of the implementation of casino gambling, casino development, and it continues to go on unimpeded as the expansion of casinos takes place in that city because it has been very fruitful for the casino operators. In fact it's an overwhelming success for the casino operators, Atlantic City is, but see, that can be and should be instructive for the minister.

1540

Casinos are benefiting. They are operating at the levels which were anticipated, but the so-called spinoff effects which the minister has so amiably put forward as the positive results that Windsor will encounter down the road—the economic spinoff effects for the hotel industry, for local businesses, tourism in general, the creation of jobs and the revenues which will result in increased taxation, a revenue base increase for the local municipality etc—we could look at these things. We could look at Atlantic City and, as I pointed out yesterday, the business community there was sadly disappointed in the results.

Let's look at some figures. Of the 383 businesses that list themselves as food suppliers to the casinos in Atlantic City, only 75 have Atlantic City addresses and most of those are small sandwich shops rather than large-scale operators. Of the 221 office supply and furniture dealers, only 16 are local. So you see that a lot of the casino purchasing which

is taking place comes from around the country, in fact probably from other places in the world. Again, looking at the spinoffs for the local community and the suppliers that may be involved, only a small fraction of what was intended resulted in direct spinoffs to that community.

Here's another interesting fact. In Atlantic City, 40% of the 34 million visitors come by charter bus and stay for less than one full day. That's what's happening in Atlantic City; you get one-day visitors. For the most part, a significant proportion of these people, and those who are not one-day visitors, tend to be people who are high-stake gamblers, tend to be people who go to Atlantic City to do one thing and that is to gamble.

In looking at the situation in Atlantic City, you don't get the kinds of spinoffs people thought they were going to get, and I point this out once again to the minister. I hope I've been able to provide her with some more specific information because, quite frankly, these are the kinds of things we need to look at. Why is it that the spinoffs aren't there? The so-called spinoffs which are supposed to and are intended to help the city of Windsor, the local economy, just haven't resulted in a place like Atlantic City where they have, and I may suggest, a full-scale, Las Vegas style of operation of casino gambling.

There's also a problem with underage gambling, and this is very interesting and very much to the point today as we talk about my colleague the member for Mississauga West's private member's bill intended to curb gambling of underage children. In Atlantic City they are having a terrible time with underage gamblers, and it's suggested that it's common.

The kinds of controls that are in place in casinos are very limited in Atlantic City. They don't restrict as well as they should perhaps. I hope it will be the case in this country and in our jurisdiction that we do not allow underage citizens to gamble freely. That, I think, is fundamental as a consideration.

I think it's important that we again look at what is occurring with respect to the loss of potential revenues for charitable organizations. Again, I raise these arguments—and I want to repeat what I said—because it's important to note what kind of impacts have already been seen in other jurisdictions. When the minister stands up and says, "We're going to undertake a pilot project to get that information which will then determine the best ways in which to proceed," I sort of say to her: "Look, this is putting the cart before the horse. It's not the way to proceed in its entirety."

I agree that we should move forward with the initiative—it's been decided—but let's do so in a proper fashion. Let's do so so that we know what we're doing, that some studies have been undertaken to look at these situations in other jurisdictions that have had these experiences, which can be very instructive for Ontario.

Quite frankly, taking a position to bring about legalized gambling in the form of gambling in casinos in this province without the real extensive public consultation, public input and public hearings process which I believe is so fundamental I think is leading to a great deal more cynicism in our society.

I want to quote from what Bob Rae said back in the days when he was in opposition. I think this is very instructive. This was a very famous quote from Bob Rae. It speaks to the kind of cynicism which is created as a result of the comments we make in this very chamber. It's very instructive with respect to the issue at hand today. I'm quoting from what Bob Rae said, as reported in the *Toronto Star* November 27, 1986: "There are high rollers who are benefiting directly from the ripoff of the working people. They are gambling with your lives. They are gambling with your jobs. They are gambling with the future of your country. What is moral about a system that creates that kind of unemployment just because somebody gets greedy? What is moral about an economic system that feeds on greed? It's time we presented the Canadian people with a vision of a democratic society that is far more compelling because it draws not on what is most narrow in people but on what is most generous in people."

Very compelling words; very profound words. I think it's important that we look at the things we say in this chamber and how those measure up to the actions that are taken.

If we're going to have casino gambling, if this decision has been taken—it has and it's been finalized; we are moving forward with it—then I say, at least do some of the things which are necessary to ensure that we do not have the kind of society Bob Rae was alluding to. I know he wasn't just strictly talking about casinos. But we do not have a society created in this province that fosters the kind of values he was alluding to in his comments here when you say we're going to have unbridled, unrestricted casino gambling, and right now we see underage youth undertaking the same kind of gambling that we, I hope, are very much opposed to.

I know the government wants to act on the private member's bill that my colleague the member for Mississauga West has put forward in this House which would restrict young people from gambling. It's a very serious matter. I take it seriously and I know that all members in this chamber do as well.

I implore the government to take the initiative to bring that bill forward for debate and do it as soon as we possibly can. It's been called for today and it was rejected. You would have had unanimous consent from this side of the House. Make a serious commitment to bringing that forward because as we move forward I say, again, as we move forward with casino gambling, the values in our society will change. People will be affected.

1550

I want to point out one other thing that I made mention of in respect of the kinds of impacts which will result. I alluded to the removal or the eradication, actually the closing down and the elimination of funding for Gamblers Anonymous, which was a group to help gamblers overcome their addiction. There's an interesting fact here with respect to that.

I quote from an article in the *Toronto Star*, dated July 20, 1992: "While only 2% of the people who seek the help of Gamblers Anonymous are able to recover with its assistance alone, the success rate jumps to 50% if the

compulsive gambler first undergoes treatment of this kind. Yet while the United States has more than 60 such clinics"—very important fact—"and others have been established in Europe and elsewhere, not a single one exists in this province or, indeed, in all of Canada." That's a startling fact.

I think it's important that this government realize that if we move forward in this way, that we make this a priority, that we establish a clinic, that we establish funding for this very real and serious problem—it's not taken that lightly in the US, as I pointed out; 60 clinics have been started in the US, do exist there and are operating.

People do get addicted to gambling, so it's not something that we can ignore. I say to the minister, it is certainly an area that she has to look at.

There's the other matter of competition. Once Windsor gets its casino and it is operational, it'll be interesting to see what happens with respect to the competition that we establish a clinic, that we establish funding for this very real and serious problem—it's not taken that lightly in the US, as I pointed out; 60 clinics have been started in the US, do exist there and are operating.

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there was an increase in crime, some outrageous figure with respect to the increase. I don't have it in front of me, but it was a startling increase in phone calls to the police department shortly after the casinos opened up and started to operate. Again, I point out to the minister and the government that you have to make provision and take that into account, factor that into the equation.

The reason I'm once again rising to my feet to point this out is that I've seen a real lack of information from the government. I want to make sure you don't forget the message. I say to the members opposite, if the minister had more information, was a little more forthcoming with respect to the decision that had been taken and had supportive documentation, which has really been sorely lacking on this question, I probably would not have been on my feet again today asking these questions, not have been on my feet to repeat the kind of concerns I stated yesterday in response to this bill on second reading.

I have yet to see the kind of commitment to the charitable organizations which indicates a plan for their survival, a realistic plan which can be brought about to ensure that charitable organizations are not devastated in the future. I think they have not been fully apprised of and did not fully realize the information that was put to them by the minister. In fact, I think they were led down the garden path.

I want to point that out because we know now, today, that charities will not be part of the revenue-sharing. In fact, no one will be part of that revenue-sharing. There is no revenue-sharing. This Treasurer intends to fill his coffers completely with the revenues from casino gambling. Of course, that's going to be a drop in the bucket in so far as an \$11-billion or \$12-billion deficit is concerned, but it's a significant amount of money for local economies and charities. That's the point I'm trying to make.

1600

But I say to the minister, it was very clear in May 1992 that she was prepared to have charitable organizations share in the revenues. What happened between May and October of this year? When I asked her in committee that very straightforward question about the role that charities would play, she changed her mind completely. It was in the May 9, 1992, article in the *Toronto Sun*. "We would have to work out some kind of process, either through general revenues or through a cut from the proceeds or their active involvement in running them," Churley said about charities and the role that they would play with respect to casino gambling and the revenues generated from those casinos.

It was pretty clear that, on her indication, charitable organizations thought they had a deal with the government, thought they were involved in this comprehensive process. They were part of the consultation process that was being undertaken, and they bought into the plan.

Of course, today we realize that this was all a sham, that they weren't part of the plan; they weren't part of the equation. The Treasurer came down very hard on charitable organizations and said: "No, you can't have any of this money. This money belongs to me, and we're going to keep it for ourselves." "No" to the city of Windsor, the

local municipality, and "No" to the charitable organizations. No one else will share in these revenues. They're going into the general revenue fund of this government. I think that that is not acceptable, not acceptable because the charities have been left without any real alternative.

Once again I ask the minister to conduct a real study which will indicate to us just what might happen. In fact, look at possible alternatives for these charitable organizations in the face of competition, in the face of casino gambling, which will be pretty stiff competition for the charitable organizations to organize their casino nights, bingo nights etc. They certainly will have a difficult time, and there is no doubt about that.

I say to you, Mr Speaker, it's fine to take a decision. It's fine to take a decision which, after having reversed your policy and your position, after holding some strongly held beliefs, long-held beliefs—I think people can understand that this government is desperate for revenues. I think people out there say, "Well, the government needs additional revenues, and good Lord, if you don't tax us, at least this is an alternative." People are saying that.

But you know what? This is a tax. This is a still a form of taxation, and the taxation largely falls on low-income people who virtually cannot help themselves, people who are ill-equipped to deal with the negative impacts of casino gambling. So I say again, look at those impacts. Look at whom you're affecting: the very people whom Bob Rae used to talk about so eloquently and used to champion their cause, at least in his words.

We know today that he's reversed his position on a number of things. We know today that Bob Rae has said one thing and then done another. We see that in this decision. We've seen that on a number of other decisions that he's taken, and his government—I think all the members sitting there—has to examine these fundamental reversals. They're not things which we arrived at over a period of time and then people decided to shift positions within the framework of a piece of legislation. No, these are fundamental reversals, 180-degree turns. That's why this is so crucial. And what's worse is that you've left behind those people who are most affected. You've left them in the dust. You're going to do that with this decision.

I have yet to see any evidence, I have yet to receive any indication from this minister—you know, quite frankly, why can't we have more information? In the committee estimates process it was indicated to us that very little information exists and that in fact you could not conduct a study, and that's why we're proceeding with a pilot project: to examine these questions.

Well, as far as I'm concerned, I don't believe that this is the best way to proceed, I don't believe that this is the only way to proceed and I think it would have been far more prudent for this government to have undertaken additional studies even now. It's not too late. You can still conduct those studies. We still have a considerable period of time before the pilot project is initiated, before land is bought up in Windsor somewhere and you build that 40,000-square-foot building with respect to the casino that will be chosen in Windsor. It's still not too late to conduct the kind of studies to make everyone have a better understanding

of what we're dealing with. This is a significant decision with profound impact on the whole of the province.

I think I will end there. I want to once again say to the minister that the charities need your help, the organizations that have gone out and organized event after event, year after year, volunteers who have done their utmost. And remember what I said yesterday: that \$1.125 billion is raised by gaming activities on the part of charitable organizations. That is a significant slice of economic activity, of revenue that's generated by charitable organizations. That's not something that can be easily replaced. At least provide a sense of direction, provide us the alternatives that charities can deal with this, can cope with it.

That was done on behalf of the Ontario Racing Commission. We heard the minister say that a number of changes have been undertaken with respect to the racing commission, and I believe that it's important that this government provide alternatives for those charitable organizations that are doing the kind of work that needs to be done in housing, in health care, in community and social services, countless agencies, thousands of them that depend on this revenue.

I, quite frankly, was surprised by the magnitude, the number of organizations that depend on revenues from gaming activities. It's province-wide. It's in all of our communities. It's thousands upon thousands of volunteers who give their time freely to ensure the services that cannot be provided by government, that cannot be provided really through the private sector, services that would simply not be provided at all.

I say to this government, think very hard what the impact will be on those charitable organizations: a drop in service, a drop in the quality of service, the quality of care, etc. That's what will result if we don't come up with the alternatives and if we don't think very carefully how this impacts on charitable organizations.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

1610

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): On this final reading of this bill, I would like to make a few final comments. This bill or this piece of legislation followed on a discussion paper which originally was put forward by the Peterson government in 1990, and basically what is proposed now was contained in that document. In fact, the Liberals introduced a bill, Bill 237, which was very similar to this piece of legislation, which ultimately died on the order paper, so I can understand my friend from Eglinton's indication that his party is going to be supporting this legislation.

Prior to 1989 the number of bingo parlours was growing at a rather quick rate in the province of Ontario and numerous complaints were received concerning bingo hall operators: allegations that there were abuses as to the taking of direct profits by these bingo hall operators instead of the service clubs, that these were being taken away from charities and other groups. Therefore, at that time the province issued a moratorium on the creation of new bingo halls in August 1989.

This legislation does provide, of course, a number of long-awaited proposals, and I think that, generally speaking, all sides of the House agree with those proposals. There are many proposals in the bill that we do support.

There are some concerns, of course, some interesting proposals, a number of which we haven't really seen yet, one of which will appear in the regulations, and we haven't seen those regulations because they haven't been prepared yet. For instance, the regulations will require that all registered bingo operators and their employees must have photo identification and fingerprints on file with the ministry. This has been suggested as being part of the fear that the attractiveness of this cash-based industry is connected to a criminal element, all of which is rather unfair. I think I've expressed this concern with respect to the bingo hall operators. Putting all of these people in this category I think is unfair, and to suggest that they all must be fingerprinted and giving the government power to pass such regulations allowing it to do that is a rather harsh way of dealing with the situation.

In order to further dissuade any criminal intentions, the ministry of course has established a stringent authority for the examination of the books of registered suppliers to ensure that the charitable organizations are receiving their full share of the proceeds. In addition, all suppliers wishing to be registered must pass an examination of past history and financial worthiness, performed by the ministry.

Many of these things, again, we all support, because there were some abuses in the industry and it was rather unclear, particularly with the intent as to who was going to be running them and who was going to be regulating them.

I again remind the minister that I have expressed a number of concerns with respect to this bill in the past. I have written a letter to her expressing concerns on the general licensing, the issue of the bill being passed, then there being put forward a second draft and no real response to that second draft. I have asked these questions on second reading. I have asked these questions in estimates and I have asked these questions in response to other speakers in this House and I am going to again request from the minister a response to that line of questioning.

As we have indicated throughout, Bill 26 does provide a regulatory framework for the commercial sector. Operators and their employees will now require provincial scrutiny and regulation to provide support services, charitable and religious organizations will require a licence to hold a gaming event, and under a licence, charitable or religious organizations may operate such activities as bingos and Monte Carlo nights, and that's quite clear.

There's going to be a policy manual—and we understand that—or terms and conditions and this is a licensing guide for municipal and ministry offices. Again, there has been confusion among the municipalities, at least from information that has come to my office from municipalities, specifically interested in their comments on this second draft and these were to have been returned. Again, we've heard no response from the ministry as to the results of that second consultation paper which was put forward after the introduction of the bill.

A new order in council is to be issued that will change the current authorities for licensing lotteries and gambling events. For example, municipal councils can currently issue licences for bingos under \$3,500 and this is going to be changed to \$5,500, therefore leaving the ministry responsible for the commercial sector. We all understand that. But again, I am concerned with some questions that I have put forward to the minister on several occasions. I'm going to put those questions on the record again.

There is my question as to what requirements are placed on both the municipality and the charitable and religious organization for applying for a licence. There's also the issue of the Nevada tickets, as to who can apply for and sell them. I've asked the question about sports lotteries: Can any charitable or sports association run one of those now under this bill? This bill will receive third reading, but we don't know when it will receive royal assent. So the issue of course is, are the requirements for licensing to take place then or now? The municipalities are concerned with this and the confusion that has developed.

Finally, I raised the issue of the whole consultation process of the second draft. The minister takes great pride in boasting how she has consulted on this bill and how she's set out a second draft. It would be assumed that she was going to listen to some of the comments that would come forward. There have never been any amendments to the bill as a result of that consultation process, so I guess we really question the whole merit of proceeding with respect to that consultation paper.

The minister has said this bill will not have anything to do with gambling casinos, whether the Windsor pilot project or any other areas, but there's also no question that the minister, if she saw fit, could put forward gambling casinos, whether in Windsor or a general policy of gambling casinos, simply by regulation. That gives me and, I know, the member for Lawrence some concern, because essentially she's saying: "Trust me. We will introduce a bill on gambling casinos, specifically the Windsor project, and trust me, it will not come by regulations under this bill."

The fact of the matter is that under this bill, through regulations, the whole policy of gambling casinos could be put forward. Even if they were run by charitable organizations, it could be run by this bill by regulations. It will therefore never come back to this House for debate as to the rules and regulations, the whole system, the whole proposal of gambling casinos that is going to be put forward in this province.

We spent some time in estimates on the whole subject of gambling casinos. My party asked a number of questions as to where the minister is going. She doesn't really seem to know. She did tell us that the Treasurer has simply authorized the expenditure of \$2.5 million for the project team to proceed to determine the type of gambling casino that could take place in the city of Windsor.

1620

It is interesting that the Treasurer, who's saying this province is going to reap all kinds of revenue from this pilot project in Windsor, and notwithstanding the fact that the province is having a lot of revenue problems, is prepared to spend \$2.5 million and is spending \$2.5 million

simply on the project team developing a policy on gambling casinos for this government—a most unusual step to take.

I echo the comments from the member for Lawrence when he says, "Why aren't there impact studies? Why are we going into this blindfolded? Why are we simply going on a trial and error basis? Are we going to have simply a government-run gambling casino, are we going to have a gambling casino run by charities or are we going to have a joint venture system?"

That's a word that's been scaring me. That's a word that's been developing and that also came out in estimates, because we've seen the joint venture system that's developing in this province, particularly with the Polaris project. A company called Real/Data and the province of Ontario have entered into a partnership arrangement to run the land registry system of this province in a Polaris-run-type system and they've called it Teranet.

We are simply unable to find out—when I say "we," I mean the people in this province, the opposition in this province—the details of how this company is going to be running the land registry system in Ontario. Because of our privacy legislation, because there is a private company that is essentially in partnership with the government, and we are not entitled to know the workings of that company, therefore we can't know the workings of the Polaris system, of the Teranet company. It gives me great concern, when I raise the issue as to the accountability of this government, whether it be in land registry offices or whether it be on the whole subject of gambling casinos.

The fact of the matter is that if any of us wish to go and gamble in this province, would we go to Windsor or would we go to Las Vegas or Atlantic City, where all the frills of a holiday away are being offered? I've never been to Atlantic City, although I understand the project team had a junket to Las Vegas at the taxpayers' expense to study the subject of gambling—

Interjection.

Mr Tilson: Well, they did. A group of the project team went to Atlantic City to study gambling casinos. Can you imagine? That is one of their impact studies. A group of our bureaucrats travelled to Las Vegas to study gambling casinos in Las Vegas and to determine how the effect of that is going to be in Ontario.

If individuals in this province are going to gamble, they're going to get one of the very cheap flights that are offered to fly to Las Vegas or to fly to Atlantic City, where you have entertainment, you have very good accommodation, excellent accommodation, the best in the world, where you have food and drink and where the prices have been reduced. All that is being offered in Atlantic City and Las Vegas. Why in the world would anybody from the United States or Canada or outside North America travel to the city of Windsor? Why would they do that? You can get far better gambling going to these other areas in the United States.

I can only conclude, and it's been suggested, that there are individuals in the United States, people from Atlantic City, people from Las Vegas who are prepared to come up to Windsor and enter into a joint venture relationship with this government in the operation of gambling casinos in

the city of Windsor. That troubles me, the joint venture, which is a possibility that has been referred to in estimates, that this government may enter into the Teranet type of operation and we won't be able to find out what it's doing.

Already we've been informed that the city of Windsor is not going to get one dime of revenue. They thought they were. They were led to believe by this government that they were going to get that type of revenue, but they're not going to get it. It's been said quite clearly that the province of Ontario is going to receive all the revenue. The minister says, "Oh, well, there will be some revenue that will be achieved by vendors and other retailers in the back streets of Windsor who will receive some of the spinoffs from these gambling casinos."

What's going to happen is that the people from Detroit and other areas are simply going to travel to Windsor for an hour or a few hours, and they're gone. They're going to go back, unless you develop a highly expensive hotel complex of the Atlantic City or Las Vegas type, with all the trimmings that go with it. Who's going to pay for that, the province of Ontario?

Much time has been spent in the debate today and in second reading on the subject of gambling casinos. Gambling casinos, at the outset, seem a far-removed topic from the subject of bingo halls and other such matters that the Gaming Services Act normally deals with, but the fact of the matter is that it is legally possible for this government, notwithstanding all of its promises—we've listened to its promises. We even listened to the Treasurer, who is in today, talking last year of how he was going to have transfer payments of 1%, 2% and 2% to the municipalities and the hospitals. Now it appears that commitment may be reneged on as well.

I simply don't trust the government on the promise that this bill will not have gambling casinos as part of its regulatory content. Do you trust this government on that? I certainly don't. Therefore, I think it's very important that we spend some time on the subject of gambling casinos, as we have done, and the effect they're going to have on this province, the effect on the horse racing industry and the job losses that have been established in other jurisdictions, in the United States and elsewhere. Where you institute a gambling casino in the same jurisdiction as a horse track, job losses result, not only in the horse track business but the agricultural industry that surrounds it: the tack, the feed. The general agricultural community has sustained substantial losses.

In my community of Orangeville, for example, there's a small track. There's no question that if the emphasis is placed on gambling—there is only so much gambling money that's available—that track will close. What will happen when that track closes? There'll be a loss of jobs. There'll be more loss of jobs in my community, not only at the race track itself but in the agricultural community that surrounds that track, and that gives me great concern.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): It works both ways.

Mr Tilson: I don't know what you mean by saying it works both ways. It doesn't work both ways. Facts have

been established in other jurisdictions, particularly in the United States, that once you put forward a gambling casino in a particular jurisdiction, the race tracks have lost jobs or have closed down in many cases.

This government hasn't done that. There have been no impact studies. They say, "Oh, well, we're looking at other jurisdictions." They're looking at so-called reports that have been made from other jurisdictions, and of course they've had a junket to Las Vegas to study how gambling is conducted in Las Vegas.

I am concerned with the whole subject of gambling casinos around this bill and the possibility as to what this government can do.

In closing, I can only say that as you flip through Bill 26, it's not a very long bill, it's not a very detailed bill—I've made this comment during the second reading debate—but there is a considerable amount of detail that is going to be passed on to the regulations. That is the fear at least we in the Progressive Conservative Party have with respect to this bill. I think we should be very cautious of that. Are we going to trust this government, by orders in council, or the bureaucrats, through the regulations, to make regulations dealing with very serious matters?

The very subject of fingerprinting is a most preposterous proposal, to insist that operators be fingerprinted before they get their licence. Even the criminal courts don't insist on that. You have to commit a crime or be alleged to have committed a crime before that is put forward.

I have referred to these matters in the debate in the past and I'm not going to repeat what I have said other than to say, dealing specifically with Bill 26, that when you don't put forward details as to how you're going to regulate the gaming services, whether it be bingo parlours or any other type of thing, when you don't specifically itemize what that is, it's going to create difficulties. There'll be a certain amount of uncertainty and there'll be no chance for the members on this side, the opposition parties, or the members of the government, to specifically debate and discuss the merits as to whether those regulations are appropriate.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for participation in this third reading debate and I simply ask the members of this House to keep in mind that when they are voting on this bill, they could be voting on the whole process of gambling casinos in the province of Ontario.

1630

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in the debate? If not, Minister.

Hon Ms Churley: Once again, I want to thank my critics opposite for their comments and in particular for supporting this bill. I just want to point out something very briefly—I think it's important—and that is, once again, to reiterate that this is not about casinos at all. I think the members opposite really understand that, which is why they're supporting the bill, that it really is to help the charitable institutions make sure that they get the money they should be receiving coming directly to them.

I want to say that most of the commercial operators are honest and reputable people. There have been a few who

have been skimming profits and, as you know, millions of dollars have been lost. So the main purpose behind this bill is to regulate that sector to make sure that we have some control over that.

In terms of a very big concern of Mr Tilson's, I just want to point out that not all people will be fingerprinted. It will just be used on very rare occasions when there's some question regarding identity. The request that people have photo identification is quite common today, and it's used for security purposes in many workplaces now. I think this is an area where we need to protect the interests of the charities. I think it's very important, as we regulate this sector, that we have this kind of identification system in place.

I think this is a very important piece of legislation. It's important to communities across Ontario. Many of the problems that have been raised by the opposition, as I said yesterday, are part of the terms and conditions. We are in fact dealing directly with those in our consultations. There have been and will continue to be extensive consultations around these areas. I certainly would like to guarantee people of that.

What we are trying to do is work with all the interested parties, and in particular the charities but also the bingo hall operators in the commercial sector, to make sure that we have the best rules in place, in particular for the charities themselves. This will ultimately lead to a more honest and equitable marketplace for all participants in the charitable gaming industry in Ontario.

Once again, I would like to thank the members opposite for their input. Between the comments on casinos, some very good suggestions were made.

The Deputy Speaker: Ms Churley has moved third reading of Bill 26, An Act to provide for the Regulation of Gaming Services. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

I declare the motion carried.

Resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

TORONTO ISLANDS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA ZONE RÉSIDENTIELLE DES ÎLES DE TORONTO

Mr Mills, on behalf of Mr Cooke, moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands and respecting the Stewardship of the Residential Community on the Toronto Islands / Loi concernant les Îles Algonquin et Ward's et concernant l'administration de la zone résidentielle des îles de Toronto.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I'm pleased to present for second reading today the Toronto Islands Residential Community Stewardship Act, which was introduced in this House on June 10, 1992. The legislation finally resolves the long-standing dispute over the residen-

tial community on the Toronto Islands, and it does so in a way that is fair to the islanders, to the city, to Metropolitan Toronto and to the people of Ontario.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Who wrote that for you?

Mr Mills: Mr Speaker, I understand that the member for Etobicoke West will have an hour and a half to talk to this and I'd like to be able to give my opening statement in peace.

I would like to sketch for this House a brief history of this unique Ontario community.

The Toronto Islands community is as old as this country. It began as a cottage settlement in 1867, the year of Confederation, and 21 years later, the city of Toronto established a 200-acre park there. The attempted dismantling of this close and interdependent community began in 1956, when Metro Toronto first took over the islands. In 1957, 400 homes were demolished, and in 1968, the first homes were demolished without compensation.

Since 1974, when Metro terminated the islanders' leases, members of the community have led a precarious existence, uncertain about their future. The legislation before you today for second reading will give that community the sense of security it needs to plan for its future.

The Toronto Islands are home to 650 people, who occupy some 250 homes on 33 acres of land. This is less than 5% of the total land of the islands, and according to the 1991 survey of island residents, 65% have lived on the island for 50 years or more, 54 of the 250 houses are owned by retirees and more than 22% of the residents have a household income of less than \$20,000.

Clearly, this is a community worthy of consideration of preservation not only for the benefit of those who live there, but for the thousands of people, like myself, who love to visit it yearly. The experience of strolling this island neighbourhood, with its car-free streets, gives pleasure to many visitors from Toronto and elsewhere who value the islands' unique setting and ambience.

On March 13, 1991, Richard Johnston was appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs as special adviser on the Toronto Islands. He was given 60 days in which to report on the fairest way to ensure preservation of a residential community on the Toronto Islands. Mr Johnston's dedication, vision and perseverance deserve to be acknowledged and applauded.

In developing his recommendations, Mr Johnston worked under a set of assumptions which I would like to review for you here today.

First of all, it was assumed that the community should stay there for the long term. All residents, regardless of their income, should be allowed to remain. It was equally important that the land remain in public ownership but that the ownership of the houses should revert to the islanders. The housing on this public land should not be and will not be used or exchanged for excessive individual profit. The goal was a reasonable balance between the control of individual profits and the cost of residency. This legislation will enshrine that.

It's important that any solution should not be a burden on the Metro taxpayer. The island community should be as self-sustaining as any other neighbourhood.

Finally, it was established that Ward's Island should continue to be a gateway to the island park.

1640

The legislation before you is the result of extensive consultation and negotiations among the province of Ontario, Metro Toronto, the city of Toronto and the islanders themselves, all of whom made accommodations and compromises to their original positions. This bill represents the best and the most comprehensive solution to this long-standing and thorny issue.

The members will recall that the Minister of Municipal Affairs introduced a similar bill to this one on December 19, 1991. The changes to the act that were made when the bill was reintroduced in June reflect the results of a further consultation process with the island community and with the city of Toronto.

This legislation still includes these measures:

Land comprising the residential community will remain in public ownership, being transferred from Metro Toronto to the province of Ontario. A Toronto Islands community trust will be established to manage the lands, and the province will lease this land to this trust for 99 years. Homes will be returned to the island residents. Island residents will be offered 99-year leases for the land.

The city of Toronto will receive about \$12 million through the sale of land leases to island residents. In addition, the city will be able to collect a portion of its prior water and sewer infrastructure investment.

Property sales will be strictly regulated to ensure that no windfall profits accrue. The islands community will be increased by up to 110 new housing units, most of them managed by a housing cooperative.

Several changes have been made to the original bill. These include provisions that will protect individuals who occupy a home on the islands but who are not entitled to ownership of it. A commissioner will be appointed to determine ownership of island homes in cases where ownership is under dispute. The commissioner will determine whether these people are entitled to be protected occupants.

A protected occupant will be allowed to continue to occupy the house for a set period of time while seeking alternative housing on the islands or elsewhere. They will be required to pay rent for the house and land, but will have priority on the list for purchasing a house and the land lease. Another change allows owners to sublease their houses with the approval of the community trust.

In line with the spirit of the Johnston report, provisions have been added allowing owners, upon their deaths, to transfer their houses to their children.

Finally, to those who fear that the islanders will benefit from windfall profits on their homes, I would like to point out that there are significant restrictions on the sale of leases and homes on the islands. They include limiting the right to sell a lease and requiring that residents occupy their home as a principal residence.

All home and lease sales will go through the community trust, which will operate under a formula. The vendor

of a lease will be entitled to receive 60% of the remaining book value of the lease plus 40% of the new lease price. The vendor of a house will be entitled to the appraised value of the house plus a 1.5% equity factor. A fair compensation, but by no means a lavish one.

I believe the changes we have made in the original components of the bill provide a creative, fair and equitable response to the debate over the future of the Toronto Islands. I believe this bill serves well the people of the province of Ontario, Metro Toronto, the city of Toronto and the families and members of the century-old Toronto Islands community. This hard-won resolution, this legislation, will also preserve an important part of our heritage that will provide benefits for generations of Ontarians to enjoy.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are there any questions or comments? Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): I think the member for Durham East is absolutely right; this is a long-outstanding issue, dating back to 1867. But I would like to remind him that the Cooke deal that's been agreed to—

Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell): Cooked deal.

Mr Grandmaitre: —cooked deal that's been agreed to is not the best deal possible. I think it's a good deal for the islanders but a bad deal for Metro, a bad deal for Toronto and a bad deal for the Ontario taxpayers.

I think it represents, Mr Speaker, a payback to the NDP political friends on the island. As you know, the last election in that riding was a very close one. The islanders have always been known as greater NDPers, and now today, with the second reading of this bill, they're being paid back.

I know the member for Durham East is well aware that all three political parties were on side when we decided individually that the islands community should be maintained. It's not new. Back in 1981, in the days of the Tories, the Tories passed legislation to protect the islands community from being dismantled. From 1985 to 1990, the Liberal government worked with the municipal government, or governments if you want to talk about Metro and Toronto, and also the community representatives of the island, but we couldn't reach a deal, for many reasons. One of them was the lease that the member for Durham East just spelled out.

The difference in the NDP package is that the deal is unfairly weighted in favour of the current residents. The current residents are not required to pay back 11 years of rent. Since 1981 these people have not paid rent. I think it's very unfair to people who are on waiting lists in this province trying to get a sweetheart deal as good as the islanders are getting. I don't know of anybody living in a home, in a house, in an apartment, for 11 years without paying rent and remaining as a tenant.

In addition, the 99-year property lease adds up to the equivalent of \$30 per month. This is why I call it a sweetheart deal. This is a great deal for the islanders.

Again, I have to think about the seniors and families on waiting lists right across this province who would love to pay \$30 a month for rent, but they have to pay the fair market rent.

Municipalities are not so keen about the package. I'm referring to Metro and the city of Toronto. It's simply not fair. Metro and the city of Toronto are not happy with the package. They have to explain to their constituents why this municipal resource—the islands residents' property—was simply taken away, and they have to explain why other residents in the city and Metro have to pay 20 times the islanders' rent for a small apartment in Toronto or in Metro.

1650

The NDP government is proud of this deal. They think they've resolved the conflict, but personally, I think the conflict isn't finished; it's the start. They simply decided to help their islander friends. They disregarded the interests of the city and Metro. They gave up provincial land to help smooth some ruffled Metro feathers, but they still left the municipality with a raw deal.

The minister has said that this deal doesn't leave anyone out of pocket. The deal does leave the taxpayers of this province out of pocket. Metro taxpayers are out of pocket for the land and rent they would have received under the ownership of the property, prime tourist property in the area of Toronto. The 23 acres at the Etobicoke psychiatric hospital cannot compare.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): It's open space anyway.

Mr Grandmaitre: Absolutely. If Metro had made this kind of deal on the railroad lands, imagine what would have happened. This government would have been dead against it; Jack Layton would have been outraged at the deal. But the NDP feels it has the unilateral right to implement the same kind of deal in favour of the current island residents, leaving Metro with 23 acres of parkland.

The province is giving Metro this land as if it is of no cost to the province. But the NDP knows that this property at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital would likely have been made into parkland anyway because the present Minister of the Environment, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, has long been an advocate of protecting the Lakeshore psychiatric facility as parkland.

In addition to the land issue is the reality that future rent of the island properties will be far below market value rents. The depressed rents in simple economic terms represent a cost to all Metro and provincial taxpayers in this province. If the same low-rent deal had been made for land in Rosedale, for instance, by any other government, the NDP would have cried "foul."

At the same time the islanders are getting these \$30-a-month deals. The leases charged on other provincial properties, most notably rents charged on residents in Ontario provincial parks, have doubled and tripled.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): And the NDP doesn't care.

Mr Grandmaitre: Absolutely. They couldn't care less; they simply increase the cost of access to our provin-

cial parks and yet make sweetheart deals with other private groups in the province of Ontario. There are thousands of tenants in private rental units across Metro, across this province, paying the majority of their monthly income. I don't think it's fair to the tenants of this province. I don't think it's fair that this deal should go through for the simple reason that they're NDP supporters and they would like them to remain NDP supporters.

Let's talk about the disputed ownership, as the member for Durham East described. Who are the lucky winners of this sweepstake? We just passed Bill 26, the Gaming Act; again, it's a sweepstake. And yet I hear the Treasurer every day looking for more revenue. I'm not saying those islanders should be overtaxed or charged ridiculous rents; I'm not saying that. I'm simply saying that these people will not be paying their fair share.

There's also an association that represents the owners of island buildings who do not even live on the island. They live outside. The legislation establishes a commissioner to review ownership, but the minister will be responsible for picking and choosing who the real owners are. I think that's not resolved. The real ownership of these homes is not resolved. I can recall that back in 1985-86 we tried to identify the real owners of these homes. I want to remind the minister that this is not over with. The legislation, and this commissioner, who is established by the legislation, will be the sole boss and will protect the present occupants, and these people will be able to remain in those sweepstake or lucky-deal or sweetheart-deal homes.

Last winter the NDP pulled the plug on a major development in the area, citing the high cost of flood-proofing the property. Subsequently, it has come to light that the islands also have a similar hazard designation by the Metro area conservation authority which restricts residential construction. The Metro parks commissioner, Mr Robert Bundy, has said very clearly he has long warned of the consequences of new construction on the islands and is aware that past storms have washed away residential structures.

This raises the question as to why the NDP has one set of rules for following environmental regulations to the letter with certain developers and another set of rules for avoiding environmental concerns for their political friends.

The NDP, this government, is clearly aware of this situation but is going ahead. It has been raised with the deputy of Municipal Affairs, who insisted that the new non-profit housing would still be built. I'm all for non-profit housing; I'm all for co-op housing. I think we should be spending more money because people are in great need, but this kind of disregard for the environment is not acceptable.

Another issue is, who will be liable for the damage that may occur to a construction on the islands? How much will this liability potentially cost the taxpayers of Ontario?

Mr Mancini: I don't know why these people are being treated so special.

Mr Grandmaitre: As I said earlier, I think it's a pay-off from the NDP government thanking them for 1990.

That's the only reason I can see. Nobody else in the province of Ontario is getting a sweetheart deal as they are.

If the NDP intends to proceed with construction, is it going to do other infrastructure? Who will pay for it? Who will pay for the improvements? The NDP has simply chosen to ignore these concerns, but years from now, when it will have been voted out of office, the taxpayers in this province will be left holding the entire cost.

In conclusion, the NDP will be saying that the Liberals are reversing their election commitments of 1985. But I did say, even back in 1981, that the Tories and the Liberals were committed to sustaining a community on the islands but not to giving it away.

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): That was then.

Mr Grandmaître: That was then; absolutely. You said things back in 1990 and you can't keep your promises today. The Treasurer is turning around and telling us—you told us today—that municipalities, universities and school boards will not be receiving what their fair share is, 2%, as it was promised last year. Why won't they announce it?

What this government is doing today with the introduction of second reading of this bill is, again, paying off its friends.

Mr Mancini: What did their friends do for them? That's what I'd like to know.

Mr Grandmaître: Pardon?

Mr Mancini: What do friends do for you? That's what I'd like to know.

Mr Grandmaître: Just a little X, just a vote. Promise them a vote.

I can't accept this kind of deal, because this government is supposed to be so pure, no deals, everything above board. But it's very strange. When they introduce legislation in this House, we can pick holes right through that type of legislation, and this is the kind of legislation that is not acceptable, not only to me but to our party.

At the same time, we want to protect the homes presently on the islands, but these people should be paying their fair market value rents.

1700

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Questions and/or comments? Further debate.

Mr Stockwell: I welcome the opportunity to speak to this specific piece of legislation. This piece of legislation should be required reading in any course on political science and how the process works.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): You know it all.

Mr Stockwell: The member from western Ontario has suggested that I know it all.

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): Pick a riding.

Mr Stockwell: Essex-Kent suggested I know it all. I think not. I never suggested that. But what I do know is the history of this debate, because the history of this debate has taken decades to come to fruition. Today is apparently the day when the islanders have their final day in court.

The reason this is very historical is that the islanders have never, never, ever, ever, in any court action, ever won

in court. Every level, every jurisdiction, has always ruled in favour of Metropolitan Toronto and the government of Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr Mancini: What do the courts have to do with it?

Mr Stockwell: What do the courts have to do with it? Apparently little, if anything, when it comes to legislation that's adopted, by a duly elected council in Metropolitan Toronto, that is fair and equitable to all citizens across Metropolitan Toronto.

This is a court, this final court of appeal here, that has not got what I consider to be the benefits of the majority at the heart of decision-making. This is a story of a very diligent, very persistent group of individuals who have now established that the benefits of the many can be outweighed by the benefits of a selected few. That's the story on this piece of legislation.

It goes back a few decades, when, believe it or not—maybe some of those across the floor won't know—the city of Toronto did own this property.

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: They own this property, and the member for Yorkview should probably get in his seat and I might listen to him, or he can put a bull's-eye on his head and I can spend half an hour shooting.

But the city of Toronto did own this property many decades ago, and the duly elected council in that same city decided it didn't want to own the island any more. They didn't want to own the island because it was too expensive. It was too much trouble. There was too much aggravation. So they sold the island, and they sold the island to another duly elected government, Metropolitan Toronto.

Metropolitan Toronto at the time, in the motion adopted to buy the island—I think it was for a buck, a nominal fee—said: "We will only take these properties over, these islands—Algonquin, Ward's, Centre—on the one condition. We will pay for the maintenance, pay for the ferry, pay for the fire services etc etc, on the condition that all people in Metropolitan Toronto get access to this area, that all people in Metropolitan Toronto get to use the island, that all people in Metropolitan Toronto have the same rights and privileges to use this property as public, open space or a park."

That duly elected council in the city of Toronto said: "Good. Good idea, Metro. Do it." Metro said, "We'll do it, but we have to let the islanders who are on there know this is not their own public park, that this is not just their domain, that everyone has the right to use it." It's like High Park, like Centennial Park in Etobicoke, like any of the great Rouge Valley parks, all across Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr Murdoch: Queen's Park.

Mr Stockwell: Queen's Park, for that matter.

What happened was that the tenants on these islands were given eviction notices by Metropolitan Toronto back in the 1950s, and I think the member for Fort York would know that. He'd know that they were all given eviction notices with a due period of time in which they'd have to move off the land properly owned by the Metropolitan

Toronto government so all people could take advantage of that situation.

And you know what? Most of the people moved off. Most of the people agreed. Most of the people moved off the islands and those islanders' homes were in fact demolished and created public, open space.

Then the difficulty arose because in the history of this, 500 or 600 people in 250 homes felt they had a more important calling than the benefits of the millions in Metro and decided, "No, we're going to stay and we're going to fight this in court, because you don't have any right to take land that is owned by Metro government and make it a park." They don't have any right to take taxpayers' paid-for property and create public, open space.

What happened? In the history of this debate many, many court challenges were made and many, many courts heard both sides of the argument. Many courts made rulings, and every court at every level on every ruling said: "Metropolitan Toronto is right. They own the land. This should be public land, and Metro owns it." Every time a ruling came down, a knee-jerk provincial government stepped in and ruined an opportunity for millions of people to have public, open space at taxpayers' expense.

Yes, the Conservatives were involved; yes, Larry Grossman was involved; yes, the Liberals were involved.

Finally, the nail being driven into this coffin is being driven by a government that, if this were mandatory reading, would show a vocal minority is getting to carry forward its agenda at the expense of the silent majority. Make no mistake about it: All those governments at Metropolitan Toronto levels were duly elected. All those governments were representing the people of Metropolitan Toronto and not one council, not one vote, not one court anywhere ever agreed with what is being handed down today as an edict from this provincial government.

What did they decide? Let me say this too: I take great exception to the number suggested by the member for Durham East with respect to the same number of people living there for any number of years. When this first took place in the 1950s, I doubt if you're going to find more than a handful of people who live in those houses now who lived in those houses in the 1950s. I doubt you'll find more than a handful. What else I'll tell you is that there's a lot of people on the island who are Johnny-come-latelys, who moved on to the island in the not-too-distant past. Mr O'Connor, I'm sorry. I see you gesturing like a plane is landing. What's the problem?

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): We got somebody sitting right here.

Mr Stockwell: I suggested that not more than a handful would be there. Yes, I said a handful. That's the tough one, but a handful means some.

As I was saying, those people have moved into these homes in the not-too-distant past. They have as much claim to these homes as when this transfer of ownership took place between the city of Toronto and Metro, as you and I have claim to these homes. They came later and they've declared themselves owners—

Mr Murdoch: Squatters.

Mr Stockwell: Squatters. Much the same as someone walking into High Park, pitching a tent and saying, "Now this is my house. You can't kick me off," even though that park has been built and paid for by the taxpayers at taxpayers' expense.

1710

To carry forward, these residents have won—

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): You're too stiff.

Mr Stockwell: Excuse me?

Mr Mammoliti: Lighten up.

Mr Stockwell: These residents have won the lottery with respect to the rent they're paying. They've won the lottery. When this announcement was made, the calculations took place that the cost of rent for the 99-year lease works out to something like \$30 or \$40 a month.

We have single mothers looking for housing, we have working poor looking for housing, we have seniors looking for housing and we have a government that is cutting a deal—I will note as an aside—with people who have voted very overwhelmingly in favour of the sitting member who happens to be an NDPer, cutting a deal that allows someone to have a house on public property at the rent of \$30 a month.

They suggest this is preserving the island. They suggest this is a fair and equitable deal. If this is their idea of fair and equitable, I know about two million people who want to start negotiations with them. If you're going to give them a residence on an island just off the city of Toronto's downtown core, provide them with fire, police, schooling and ferry service for \$30 a month, the lineup would stretch from here to Front Street for the people who want to take advantage of this. Make no mistake about that.

The other suggestion is they want to maintain a viable and healthy community on the Toronto Islands. I will say I don't really believe all the islanders like the idea of the co-op going up there. I don't think they like that idea. They have their own private playground. They don't like the idea of your building a cooperative housing project over there. Why? Because it's going to ruin the aesthetics. It's going to ruin their private park. It's going to ruin what they believe has been an established community.

So here you have a community that's getting to rent a piece of property and a house for \$30 a month behooved by the fact that you're building a cooperative housing project there.

Mr Mammoliti: Yes, but tell us what you think, Chris.

Mr Stockwell: George, I'm doing my best, but it's going to take you a while to consume this, so read Hansard for about three days and you might get it.

We now have the debate taking place—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: I didn't hear him and that's not unusual, Mr Speaker.

We now have a case in today's debate where we're asking the islanders, who have not paid any rent—get this, backbench NDPers—since 1981. They haven't paid their

rent and they haven't paid their taxes either since 1981. We're faced with a dilemma here today where Metro has owned the property that these houses are on, Metro has had the right to create public open space and hasn't collected a nickel in rent since 1981.

Why? Because the city of Toronto was supposed to pay on their behalf as well. Metro didn't receive the money. They've been living rent-free for a decade. While people are struggling in this city, in this Metro area, to find accommodations for families, for seniors, for single mothers, this community has lived rent-free for more than a decade. Is that equitable? Is that fair? I think not.

This government was meant to treat all people in the same way, allow all people to have access to power, to the corridors of power. My suggestion is very clear on this one: The corridors of power are open for access depending on how your poll results looked. That's the question on this particular issue.

Metropolitan Toronto hasn't endorsed this for another couple of reasons too. I'd like to debate this publicly with any of the opposition at any public event. I think this is an indefensible piece of legislation and I'd like to tell all those constituents who come to hear this debate that they're getting their rent for \$30 a month for 99 years, because I think they'd probably have something to say about that.

The jewel of Etobicoke, as far as public open space is concerned, became a bargaining chip in this deal, and I use that word as opposed to others.

Mr Poirier: A cooked deal.

Mr Stockwell: A cooked deal. This piece of property was owned by the province. This provincial government owned a piece of property on waterfront in the city of Etobicoke, and this party, led by its Minister of the Environment as well as others, but I know for a fact the Minister of the Environment, always had one position when it came to public open space on waterfront at Lake Ontario. Their position was always very clear: Any property that borders the lake, which is owned by the government, must be public open space, a park. Obviously, the Toronto Islands didn't fall into that category.

The interesting part is that the bargaining chip became this psychiatric property at Kipling and the Lake Shore in the city of Etobicoke, which is zoned public open space by the city of Etobicoke, a parklike setting that previous governments threatened to develop. They suggest in this House that they're going to trade a piece of public open space owned by the provincial government and give it to Metropolitan Toronto as a piece of public open space. They've taken a park that they owned and given it to Metro and said, "Keep it as a park." That's the sleeves from their vest. They had no use for the property. It was a park, they said it was a park, the Ministry of the Environment called it a park, and they gave it to Metro and said, "Here, make this a park." It is a park.

This is the deal that supposedly would solidify the Toronto Islands issue. But what was the deal before the cooked deal? The deal was that the Toronto Islands were supposed to be a park and the psychiatric grounds were

supposed to be a park. After this fair and equitable treatment of the Metropolitan Toronto taxpayers, they end up with one park when they had two. They end up with one open space when they had two. They end up with development on the Metropolitan Toronto Islands when they had open space. They end up being shafted when they had courts agreeing with them. They end up carrying the can and the expense of servicing this island when they didn't before. They end up with nothing and the taxpayers in Metropolitan Toronto are going to have to foot the bill.

Let's talk about expense, the expense for 250 units, 33 acres for 650 people. Who runs the ferry service back and forth from the mainland? Metro. Who's going to run the schools? The Metro school board. Who's going to run the policing? Metro. Who's going to look after the fire services? The Toronto taxpayers. Who's going to provide all the services you need for a community? The Toronto taxpayers are; taxpayers who elected citizens who said, "No, this should be a park;" taxpayers who elected politicians who said, "No, this should be open space;" taxpayers whose taxes will be increased to provide services for a community they thought would be a park.

1720

What's equitable about that? What is equitable about the fact that these islanders who, let alone get disproportionately more service at a cost that can't even begin to be covered by the taxes that will be paid—what is equitable about them paying \$30 a month rent for 99 years? What's equitable about that? Nothing.

The man who cooked up this deal has suggested he will appoint the Toronto Islands commissioner, who no doubt will have certain NDP affiliations and ties, just as Mr Richard Johnston was on it; just as Mr Johnston was a third-party, unbiased person to do the study on the island, who just happened to be a sitting member previous to this Legislature.

The Toronto Islands commissioner will be put in place to adjudicate over ownership concerns—ownership concerns. Clearly, we have a commissioner who's put in place to adjudicate over disagreements between the islanders about who owns the homes. What's very apparent, if you've got to put a commissioner in charge, is the people on the island don't have any clear-cut idea of who owns these homes. You also find out when this legislation is passed, there's going to be a lot of people, a tremendous number of people, who are going to lay claim to these homes. There are going to be a tremendous number of people who say, "I should be able to live on the island as a summer retreat, as a cottage, because I have the opportunity and I'll incur the horrendous cost of operating a property on the island for my summer vacations of \$30 a month." Thirty dollars a month, Mr Speaker. You can't pay your heating bill for \$30 a month. Your cable bill for TV is more than \$30 a month. Just to have the opportunity of seeing this station, to know how badly you're being ripped off by these people, you pay more than \$30 a month.

Mr Mammoliti: Cable is \$20.

Interjection: That's in George's area.

Mr Mammoliti: Twenty bucks you can afford.

Mr Stockwell: I've got a terrible debate brewing here from the member for Yorkview about the cost of cable TV.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, I'll withdraw that. Clearly it has exercised his concerns.

Mr Mammoliti: A lot of people can't afford First Choice. They can't afford that luxury.

Mr Grandmaître: Pull the plug, George, pull the plug.

Mr Stockwell: Okay. It's finished, I think. You can tell when the lights go off.

Mr Mammoliti: Oh, please—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member is not even in his own seat. Please, the honourable member for Etobicoke West has the floor. When your turn comes, you can participate.

Mr Stockwell: Steer clear of Canada Packers, George.

We now are faced with the dilemma of seeing cable TV being comparable in price to owning a Toronto home, and the land is owned, serviced and provided by the Metropolitan Toronto taxpayers. We have this new individual, the Toronto Islands commissioner—as I said before, probably an NDPer, no doubt—whose sole responsibility will now be to adjudicate between who owns the house and who doesn't own the house, when every court in the land has said Metro owns the house. He will also determine when you can sublease.

I always thought these people on the island wanted to live on the island. Why would you want to sublease? Why would you want to sublet this home that you've wanted to live on and fought for two or three years, in some cases, maybe six or seven months to keep? Yet they're going to be allowed to sublet it.

I always thought the whole game plan, under Metro's control, said, "If in fact we do get approval through court, we'll create the park through attrition." They weren't kicking anybody off in the end. Through attrition they would create the park. As those people who lived there moved off, they would take ownership of the home and then create the park. But now they're going to sublet it for up to 99 years.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): They'll be leaving it in their wills.

Mr Stockwell: Of course they will. This is going to be the greatest piece of property to have ownership or lease of in the next many decades. Where are you going to find a piece of property fronting Lake Ontario on an island, where all the services are provided by the local government, for \$30 a month?

Mr Mancini: This is Lotto 649.

Mr Stockwell: This is the 649 lottery. They've won the lottery.

Mr Grandmaître: It's called rent control.

Mr Stockwell: It's a form of rent control, my friends say. I don't think any country in the world could provide this kind of rent control. They've won the lottery: \$30 a month for 99 years. In 2092, these leases come due. It's

still \$30 a month, yet not one person across the floor can figure out: "Geez, maybe we're being a little too generous. Maybe we're not thinking this through. Maybe a 99-year lease for \$30,000 is a little overly generous."

Thirty bucks a month. I think all the constituents in Metropolitan Toronto should know that this government is giving islanders a \$30-a-month rent for 99 years. And guess what, folks? Not only are they getting \$30 a month, your taxes are going to pay to service this community. Your taxes are going to provide the sewage system; your taxes are going to provide the policing; your taxes are going to provide the ferry service.

Mr Grandmaître: Schools.

Mr Stockwell: Schools. But just think of it, folks: You get to have homes on an island where you could have had parks. Aren't you lucky.

There is nothing lucky about this. This is an absolute sellout from a government whose position on public open space adjoining waterfront property was as clear as glass. It's now as clear as mud, depending on how your poll voted in the last provincial election.

You read through this legislation and you find out that cooperative housing is now becoming a major component of the island issue. You'd have thought that Metro would have won at least a small portion of this fight when it took over responsibility for the islands. You'd think, in the history, it would have one small victory, and that one small victory was that wherever there was open space, it would at least stay that way. Not any more, because this government is building housing in a park. That's what it's come to. This government is building cooperative housing in the middle of a public park operated by Metropolitan Toronto.

Surely there is some zoning in place. Surely you have some understanding of the basic principles of local planning. Surely you understand that local governments should be allowed to zone and approve developments in their area. You come along and say you're going to start building cooperative housing in the middle of parks.

What park now is off base? Is High Park next to be developed? That's probably worth a lot of money. Who knows the millions of dollars that could be invested in parkland?

Mr Mammoliti: No, it was going to be Fairbank, but we stopped it.

Mr Stockwell: I look across the floor and see the members opposite talking about Fairbank. Good for you. You stopped development in a public park. I'm proud of you. I don't agree with it, but now you're the developer, the land owner and the landlord on a public park in the city of Toronto. This is what this government's been reduced to. They now have a policy in place, this new cooked-up deal, this new fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants policy, that says, "Heck, we can build cooperative housing in parks, and damn the local council and damn the Metro council and damn the zoning and damn the planning process. We know what's best for you, and what's best for you is apartment buildings in parks."

1730

Mr Murdoch: And basement apartments in all the houses. That'll be next: basement apartments in all the houses.

Mr Stockwell: The only thing you can be thankful for is there won't be basement apartments in the island homes because they don't have basements. That's the last straw, I guess.

I just don't speak for one small group of people in Metropolitan Toronto. I speak for decades of councils, decades of duly elected councils, probably hundreds of politicians who've been through the mill on this one, who've been elected by thousands and thousands of people, who duly elected their representatives to say, "We want park on our islands, not housing."

I will say that other than those two polls on Ward's Island, other than those couple of polls out there, the vast majority of residents in Metropolitan Toronto would not accept this as an acceptable compromise. They would not accept this as a reasonable deal. They would not accept this, because they've said so, in the past decade at least, that those islands should remain as park and the rest of those people who are on the island should be allowed through attrition to close up their homes and move on, when they feel like it, and that house should be taken over by Metro and created as park. That's what they said, and what we have before us today is 100 years of developed property on an island that's supposed to be public open space.

I wouldn't even mind so much—I probably would mind, but I wouldn't mind quite as much—if the deal was only within a reasonable length of time. If it was five years or 10 years, or if the deal from the other side of the floor—I look to the member for Durham East and say, look, if you had said, "All those people on the island get to stay until they move off or die or whatever happens," I'd probably accept it. I would accept the fact that is what you're going to do. I'd accept the fact, almost, that you'd charge them \$30 a month rent, as long as there was an end to this. I think the communities would accept that. I think Metropolitan Toronto council would accept it.

But the real difficulty I have and a lot of other people have, the real problem, is you're tying this down for 100 years. You're so sure of yourselves, you're so certain, that you've locked this deal in for 100 years, and for 100 years—I look to the members across the floor—there won't be any opportunity to create a park here, regardless of the intensification, regardless of the development, regardless of the zoning. You won't be able to turn this into a park.

I suppose that's the most discouraging fact of all. The most discouraging of all is that they've locked this deal in for 100 years, in direct opposition to the council, in direct opposition to the citizens and in direct opposition to the taxpayers. You've locked this deal in for 100 years. The only people you're serving here are the winners of the lottery, those people on the island.

I don't understand it. What makes these people so special? What makes these people so lucky? What makes you so beholden to these people that you're going to give them

rent for 100 years at \$30 a month at the expense of three million people? What drives you to do that?

What drives them has never been enunciated. What drives them has never been stated. All they've ever said is there should be a community on the island and that community can continue until those homes are emptied and demolished. What gives these people so much more standing with this government than seniors, than single mothers, than the working poor? Why do they get such a special, unbelievably acceptable deal that we can't provide all the other citizens in this city? Why? Why have they gotten this deal when there are so many people out there who are looking for housing?

Why then, if you weren't going to open this place up as an island housing commune, didn't you have a list, like you do for any other development you approved, that would allow people who are in need to live in these homes? Why didn't you do that for \$30 a month?

Why does Liz Amer, a councillor in the city of Toronto, get to live there? What makes her so special? Why did Michael Cassidy get to live there? Why do these people get to live on the island at \$30 or \$40 a month and the people who truly need the housing aren't allowed? Now it's going to become a self-contained community so families could live there because you're providing schools.

Mr O'Connor: The cost of educating kids—

Mr Stockwell: Well, Mr O'Connor, I don't find it humorous that we—

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Educating kids?

Mr Stockwell: The question now is, it's suggested we're going to educate kids. It's not a question of education. You're going to build the schools because you created the community. If you're going to create the community, why doesn't everybody get an opportunity to live in the community?

Mr O'Connor: It's been there for 100 years.

Mr Stockwell: These people haven't lived there for 100 years; some of them haven't even lived there for two years; some of them haven't lived there for five years. These people I've seen at committee after committee and they change sometimes on a yearly basis. They have as much draw to that community as any one of us sitting in this Legislature today, and I have the rolls to prove it, Mr O'Connor. If you'd like to go through them, I'll be happy to show you the length of the stays of these people: six years, four years, six years, one year, three years, nine years, 11, three, 11, nine, three, two years. These people have been there that long, yet they got to win the lottery. Why did they get to win the lottery? Eight years, one year. You just happened to live in that house on the date that these people decided to cut the deal, so you win the lottery and let the single parents and the seniors and the families be damned, because we know for sure that these people happen to vote NDP. That's the deal.

The answer's always the same. You get some snide comment. I've never yet heard a reason why. I challenge the member for Durham-York to come across and look at

these lists. Look at the tenants who are in these places and the length of time they've lived there.

I see some 20 people in the gallery.

Mr O'Connor: Some have been there for 40 years, 25 years.

Mr Stockwell: I said in the beginning of this speech that there are some who have lived there longer, and I have always said during the debate that no one should be forced off the island. You seem to miss that point. They shouldn't be forced off, but when the house comes due and the people decide to move or they move on or die, that house should revert back into the property of Metropolitan Toronto. That's been the policy that I've espoused. That's been what I've suggested the community should do. I've said that since day one.

What I don't accept—

Mr Hayes: Those are socialist squatters you're talking about.

Mr Murdoch: Yeah, right: squatters.

Mr Stockwell: I call those people who have been there less than a year or two years squatters. I'll say it here and I'll say it publicly: They've moved in on a perfect opportunity so they can pay rent for \$30 a year for 100 years. If you think that's a reasonable request, then I don't think it is.

I look through this list and I challenge him to come over and review the number of years they've spent on there. That's been the policy I've put forward. That was the policy at Metro Toronto. When building applications came before Metropolitan Toronto that they be asked to upgrade their residences because they're living there, I approved them. I voted in favour. I said sure, on the proviso that they not be extended.

I understand why there's a smug glibness on the other side. I understand why there are guffaws, and I understand the cackles, because if I were in the situation that these people are in, I'd be laughing too, laughing all the way to the bank because I've just ripped the taxpayer off in the worst public robbery—it was robbery without a gun—that anyone has ever perpetrated on this system. So I think I would be laughing and guffawing and have a glib response to all these points that I put forward, because I've just taken the taxpayers of Metropolitan Toronto to the cleaners, publicly.

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Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): They won a lottery.

Mr Stockwell: They won it, and I just did it. So they can sit there, wherever they are, the handful who come down, and laugh and carry on, and the members opposite can guffaw, but I say that this deal that you cut is nothing more than selective lottery wins, and you've just chosen who gets to put his ticket in the drum, and if there are 20 tickets, there are 20 prizes, and those prizes are houses on the island.

We in the opposition—and I, particularly, after eight years on Metro council and something like three or four decades of fighting this at Metropolitan Toronto—find it

offensive that you've challenged a local council's decision, find it offensive that just a select group gets to take advantage of this situation, and find it offensive that you're foisting the costs of this deal on to the taxpayers of Metropolitan Toronto. That's the deal you've cut.

I furthermore find it particularly offensive that a government that pretends to have the protection of those in need at heart would suggest for any minute that those people who live on the island today are necessarily those who would get public housing. It just isn't true. There are some cases, I'm sure, but there are a significant number of islanders who in fact have very well paying jobs, and they wouldn't qualify. So they have gotten \$30 a month for the rest of their lives and probably their children's lives, and that's the kind of deal we cut.

As I work through this, Mr Johnston went on to say that in Bill 61, or Mr Cooke's version, "The province will transfer ownership of the existing houses to the present residents, as identified in the 1992 assessment rolls."

Did you notice something about that? They're going to transfer ownership of the homes to those people on the assessment rolls in 1992. Why didn't they say "those people on the assessment rolls when this debate took place"? Why didn't they say that? Why didn't they say 1971? Why didn't they say 1975? Why didn't they say 1980? That's as equitable as picking 1992, because there are some people who've lived there a year, two years, less than a year. Why do they get on it? Immediately you're saying: "It matters not whether you have a true claim to this house. It matters not whether you've lived there. It just happens to be that you live there on the right day, and today is that day."

Interjection: In a public park.

Mr Stockwell: In a public park.

I spoke about if the ownership is contested, and mark my words, there will be many contested. It's not often you get to win the lottery publicly, so there are going to be a few people who're going to have their claim in on it.

"Anyone who is presently occupying a house on the day that this bill comes into force who are not entitled to own it may apply to the commissioner for protected occupant status."

There's a beauty. If by chance we've let you win this lottery and somehow you don't qualify because you didn't answer the skill-testing question, which is three plus three divided by two, you still get to win because you apply to the commissioner and you get protected occupancy status.

Mr Grandmaitre: They'll make you qualify.

Mr Stockwell: That's it. What are the qualifications? I'm not sure, but I'm sure you'll qualify. What a deal. Can you imagine the interviews when the islanders come in? "Where do you live?" "I live on the island." "You qualify." What a process. It will probably take the government about three hours to complete that interview.

Mr Murdoch: Oh, no, not this government. Give them a day.

Mr Stockwell: Protected occupancy status entitles the residents—get this—"to not only continue occupying the house that they are in for a maximum period of time as

stipulated in the regulations"—100 years—"but also gives them priority on the waiting list to purchase a house on the islands."

Holy smokes. You can live there as long as you like, as long as your term's up—then we'll re-evaluate you and extend it—and then when one of these prizes comes due, we'll give you an opportunity to buy it. What are you buying? You're buying a 99-year lease for 30 bucks a month. Who the heck isn't going to buy it? Who the heck isn't going to buy your opportunity? It costs you more in gas to get to the cottage up north than it costs you to pay for the rent, taxes and operation of this place.

I'd spend more in gas to get to Huntsville so I can get to my cottage. Thirty bucks return: I don't know many cars that go to Huntsville and back for much less than \$30 return. But you can have it all because you won the socialist lottery on the island. You won the lottery. We have said that if you don't qualify, we make you qualify, and then when we make you qualify, you get an opportunity to buy, and when you buy, you get 100 years of freedom. This has got to be the sweetest deal that's ever been cut by—

Interjection: Sometimes they can't afford it.

Mr Stockwell: You can't afford it? We'll subsidize you. If you can't afford it, don't pay the rent for goodness' sake. Thirty dollars a month is a lot of money.

Next, "Protected occupants pay an occupation charge in trust for the owner, and is liable for all municipal charges related to the house and land during their occupancy."

All municipal charges related to the house: I ask across the floor, what are those municipal charges? Are you going to pay for the fire stations? These 650 homes aren't going to pay for that. Are you going to pay for the school? They're never going to pay for the school. Are you going to pay for the ferry service? They're never going to pay for the ferry service. Are you going to pay for the policing? You're never going to pay for the policing. You get all these services paid for by the taxpayers because you won the lottery.

Mr Murdoch: And you get to live in a public park.

Mr Stockwell: You get to live in a house in a public park for 30 bucks a month, all your services provided, and if by chance you don't qualify, we'll make you qualify.

Mr Mahoney: How's the fishing?

Mr Stockwell: The fishing's great, as long as you don't eat them.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): You know, they still won't vote NDP.

Mr Stockwell: They will. I'll guarantee you folks across here that you can check these two polls for about 100 years and they'll vote NDP.

"At the end of the protected occupancy, the owner of the house may purchase the land lease"—

Mr Mahoney: You get a lot of geese doodoo, though, don't you?

Mr Murdoch: Who's going to feed the geese?

Mr Stockwell: If it weren't such a ripoff, it would be funny. But it's not funny. It's a sad commentary on this government today.

Number 6 of the Cooked deal: "At the end of the protected occupancy"—you know, that protected occupancy where you don't qualify but they make you qualify—"the owner of the house may purchase the land lease for the house and assume occupancy or may request that the trust sell the house and land lease on their behalf."

If you decide that \$30 a month is a little too steep for you and you want to recoup your investment, you can sell it and recover your costs. Here we have now an operation where you can sell it.

Who knows what the private sector will demand for these. I hear some mumblings across the floor at times that it will be a level, set fee by the government and that will go into trust and they won't be able to accrue the difference. The difference is they're not going to sell them. Nobody who gets into this deal will sell. It won't be within their best interests to sell because there's no point in selling the ticket that gets you a house in a park for 30 bucks a month. You couldn't recoup that. Nobody's going to sell his piece.

These are considered the rules for ownership under the current legislation. These are the tough, hard-nosed, socialist rules that this government has put in place for the lottery winners. Give me a break. Go into any municipality out here; go out to Etobicoke, Scarborough or Mississauga; go out anywhere and look people in the eye who are looking for accommodation, whose houses have been foreclosed on because they lost their jobs, who are looking for an apartment to rent for less than \$500 or \$600 a month, who are looking for a place they can move into. Look them in the eye and say, "We just sold these houses for \$30 a month for 100 years."

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Tell them the criteria: One of them is that you happened to live there when we did it. Then tell them about your social conscience. Tell them about how fair and equitable your government is. Tell them about what a fairminded individual you are and the people who've never had access to the corridors of power truly have access to the corridors of power.

This is not fair. It's not acceptable and it's just unbelievable that this is what you classify as a fair and equitable deal for the taxpayers of Metropolitan Toronto. That's what this is. This is not a deal that's cooked by Metro. This is a deal that was cooked by your Minister of Municipal Affairs.

There are a lot of people out there who need help. I challenge this government to go on to the island and give these people a means test to determine whether they need help. You give them a test to see whether or not they qualify. There are going to be a significant number of people on the island who don't qualify. Then you go out and tell all those people who qualify, who are on waiting lists, why you gave them a house for 100 years in the middle of a park for \$30. That's going to be a rather tough explanation, I might add.

The argument the member opposite, who happens to be the architect of this lottery, suggested, that other governments have approved this in the past—you know something? I don't have any agreement in the past with what previous governments did. I don't think the Conservatives handled this well at all. I don't think the Liberals handled it particularly well either. But the one thing they didn't do that this government has done is that they haven't locked the taxpayers and council into a term that is absolutely unreasonable: 100 years. They haven't locked them into a position where this land will never become parkland for 100 years.

Granted they didn't do a great job. I know very well that if it was a public debate, I would not agree with Mr Grossman's position, from our party, when he was in power, but at least he didn't lock us in for 100 years. At least he had some foresight to say, "In the year 2004, these lands revert back to Metro and become public open space." That's what he said. Metro gets ownership. They have been proven in court time and again and that's the big difference.

I take great exception to the minister standing up and saying, "Go talk to your old colleagues." What my colleagues did I am not in total agreement with. But what they did doesn't hold a candle to the sweetheart deal cut by this government on the island—not a candle.

The other discouraging part I have about this is that the people who are represented in the galleries today and on the island for the past 10 or 11 years—and I heard the Liberal member bring it up before—for the past 10 or 11 years, considering they've won this lottery, have not paid a nickel in rent. They have not paid a nickel in rent to Metropolitan Toronto, not a nickel.

You can ask the previous minister. You can ask Metro governments. You can ask them all, besides those who suggest they have. Where did the money go? Where's the money that Metro was owed for those 10 or 11 years? Where is that money? It's supposed to be in trust; it's not in trust and they're never going to see it. This group who have a 100-year lease for \$30 a month for a house in a park on the island didn't pay rent for 10 years.

Why? There never seems to be an answer from them. Why? Why were they given this break, 10 years rent-free? Why a 100-year lease for \$30 a month in the middle of a park at taxpayers' expense? Why? What makes them so special?

The other thing I would like to do is challenge those members across the floor to go through this list and see who are the occupants of these island homes. I challenge them to come across. It's well known that a city counsellor, an NDP—

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): We had a Tory candidate who made promises for years.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member knows that interjections are out of order, particularly when he's not in his seat.

Mr Stockwell: It's well known that some of those residents who live on the island are very well-off. Financially, they're in pretty good shape.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. Members will have the opportunity of participating when their turn comes. The member for Etobicoke West has the floor. Please respect that.

Mr Stockwell: Thank you, Mr Speaker, very much.

Okay, what they should do is take the assessment rolls from the people who live on the island, and they'd recognize some of those names. They'd recognize them as elected officials, they'd recognize them as architects, they'd recognize them as animators, and you know what animators are; you hired them to facilitate you. That's Alpha Consultants you hired as animators to help you facilitate. I'm not sure you can do that in public, but they hired them. These people are in fact well-off. They're paid very well. They have good incomes, and it's well known that these people could afford to pay market rent.

I know across the floor they're not very up to date on the economic practices out there for the private sector, but they must know that \$30 isn't market rent. Anyone would know \$30 is a little low for market rent.

As you flip through the assessment rolls, you also find that a lot of these people who were supposed to be part of an island community that was first annexed back in the 1950s have no relationship to the people who live there today. These people moved in at some point during the last few decades.

Mr Murdoch: How did that happen?

Mr Stockwell: How did that happen? I'm not sure. You'll also find as you flip through the assessment rolls that it even admits that they've only lived there for a very short period of time. The government should take the time—the backbenchers or even the minister or the Treasurer, who's so short of money these days he's finding it very difficult to make ends meet—to review this to find out exactly how much money he's losing in potential revenue for a simple market rent.

Mr Murdoch: You could pay the deficit off.

Mr Stockwell: I doubt you could pay the deficit off, Mr Treasurer. I don't want to get your hopes too high. But it may be so much that you might be spot on if you were to apply these to certain revenues.

Mr Mahoney: A dollar a day rent. Can you imagine that?

Mr Stockwell: I liked that from the member for Mississauga West. I think I'll close with a last thought—I'm not closing, obviously; I'll take up my opportunity to speak tomorrow—that maybe we can leave with the members opposite and maybe even the small viewing public that have tuned in to see the member for Yorkview speak and were so totally disappointed.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): Wouldn't you let him on?

Mr Stockwell: Or the member from Durham. He may speak in French tomorrow.

We may be given the opportunity to tell the people of Metropolitan Toronto that those people who have won the lottery have got a house in the middle of a park at taxpayers'

expense, provided for by taxpayers, as a gift from this government for winning the lottery. Their rent is a buck a day. You can't even get to work and back on a buck a day, and that's what they're paying in rent, these politicians, architects, animators—

Mr Mancini: Agitators.

Mr Stockwell: Agitators. A buck a day is their rent. The scary part about it is that this minister feels that he cut a hard-nosed, tough deal with the islanders because he

squeezed them for a full buck a day. A buck a day, 80 cents American. What a negotiator. What a hard-noser. What a guy.

Seeing as it's now 6 of the clock, I would like to leave their palates somewhat whetted for tomorrow as I wind up.

The Acting Speaker: It now being 6 of the clock, this House will stand adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 18, at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1801.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
78	3196	2	51	John McRae, one of our heroes who died in the First

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités par intérim: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Durham-York	O'Connor, Larry	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Peter	ND	
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General/Solliciteur général
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Vacant		

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels

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COMITÉ DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

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Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

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**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

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Irene Mathyssen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
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Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
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Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
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Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
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